Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-083
Monday
1 May 1995

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FBIS-NES-95-083 *1 May 1995*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Syria Rejects 'Time Pressure' Over Israel Talks

MM2804153795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syria Rejects Israeli Haste; Military Committee To Meet After Christopher"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A Syrian official announced yesterday that Syria will not be affected by time pressure in the negotiations with Israel. The sources stressed that U.S. insistence was behind the resumption of negotiations at ambassadorial level in Washington, because of the U.S. wish to take part and to reactivate the situation deadlocked as a result of the big gap between Syria and Israel. The sources summed up this gap in four main points: depth of the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, the withdrawal schedule, security arrangements, and relations between the two parties, that is the linkage between the withdrawal and normalization.

In Cairo, well-informed sources have said that Damascus has set the condition that it obtain Israeli assurances regarding its recognition of Syrian sovereignty over all the Golan Heights, and that it should be informed of a schedule for the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, before it can agree to begin the meetings of the joint military committee with Israel.

Damascus has informed the U.S. Administration of its refusal to agree to begin the military committee's meetings before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher completes his next tour of Damascus and Tel Aviv, in order to agree on an agenda for this committee, especially with regard to equal and parallel security arrangements on the Golan Heights.

In Damascus, the Syrian source said that the U.S. attempt was designed to break the deadlock after the military talks between the two sides at chief of staff level failed to secure joint formulas leading to a just and comprehensive peace and a balance and parity on both sides of the border, and also after Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, failed during his recent visit to Damascus to persuade Syria to resume military talks with Israel.

Despite the deadlock, which has not led to any tangible progress in the negotiation process between Syria and Israel, the United States continues to insist that it is possible to achieve progress through continued negotiations between the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors in Washington.

The source added that Syria, which refused to resume military negotiations at chief of staff level until Israel is willing to discuss peace process arrangements, agreed to resume negotiations at ambassadorial level to give peace and the efforts made by Washington in this connection another chance. Just as Syria is interested in the peace process, it is also interested in recovering its rights and land. Besides, Syria rejects Israel's haste, since it is offering nothing to prove to Syria its interest in peace or commitment to a full withdrawal.

The source pointed out that the gap between the Syrian and Israeli positions is still big. Because Israel continues to refuse to openly commit itself to a full withdrawal from the Golan or to implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy. Whereas Syria believes that Israel's withdrawal must be complete, unconditional, and not phased. And that it should be conducted without talking about internal referendums, which do not fall in the framework of the peace process' requirements. Syria rejects any phased Israeli withdrawal, because Israel did not occupy the Golan in stages in order for it to hand it back in the same manner.

It is worth mentioning that Syrian Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim and Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich accepted Christopher's invitation to meetings, which will be attended by Dennis Ross and are expected to continue until 5 May, according to U.S. sources. The sources said that Ross urged the two sides to resume negotiations over security arrangements and to discuss the equal arrangements issue. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Ministers To Discuss Israeli Land Confiscation

NC0105062595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab League Council will hold an extraordinary meeting at the foreign ministerial level in Cairo on Saturday [6 May] at Palestine's request to discuss Israel's confiscation of Palestinian land in East Jerusalem.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid held telephone consultations with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, and Moroccan Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali on this issue.

The Arab League issued a statement yesterday denouncing Israel's confiscation of the Palestinian land in East Jerusalem, a measure that will lead to obstruction and destruction of the peace process.

Egypt To Attend Meeting

NC3004144095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—Egypt has agreed to attend the Arab League Ministerial Council's emergency meeting, slated to be held in Cairo next Saturday [6 May] to discuss the recent Israeli measures in Jerusalem.

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Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that he conveyed Egypt's acceptance to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today. It should be recalled that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat called for this meeting.

Islamic Affairs

OIC Condemns Israel's 'Expansionist' Policy

LD2904200595 Riyadh SPA in English 1929 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, April 29, SPA—The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Saturday condemned anew the on-going Israeli expansionist and settlement policy in the Palestinian occupied territories.

A statement issued by the secretary general of the Jeddah-based organization, Dr. Hamid Algabid sharply denounced the violation of the Islamic holy shrines in al-Quds al-Sharif [reference to Jerusalem] by the Jewish settlers and the recent decision for seizing 52 hectares for the Arab lands for building new Jewish settlements.

"Such flagrant violations and others including the open attack by a group of Israeli settlers who stormed and profaned the sanctity of the holy 'Aqsa mosque in front of the Israeli occupation troops, constitute a serious setback for the peace process and would set new obstacles that would have reverse effects on the peace process," the statement said.

Dr. Algabid appealed to the international community and to sponsors of the peace process in particular to shoulder their responsibility and put pressure on Israel until it refrains immediately of confiscating Arab lands and ends the serious violations being committed by the Jewish settlers against the sanctity of the holy places of al-Quds.

The statement reiterated that the holy city of al-Quds would remain an indivisible part of the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 and that the city should be returned to the Palestinian sovereignty as part of a just and a lasting peace in the region.

Palestinian Affairs

Reaction to Israeli Land Expropriation in Jerusalem

Cabinet Decries 'Serious Violation'

JN2904190295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Authority's cabinet has said that the Israeli decision to expropriate Palestinian lands in Jerusalem is a serious violation of the Declaration of Principles agreement signed between the PLO and Israel.

The cabinet discussed several political and economic issues in its weekly session at the presidential headquarters in Gaza today, under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat. More details in the following report.

[Begin recording] ['Adil al-Za'nun] Under the chairmanship of President Yasir 'Arafat, the National Authority's cabinet held its weekly session at the presidential headquarters in Gaza. The cabinet primarily discussed the issue of settlement activity and the expropriation of Palestinian lands in Jerusalem. It said this is a serious violation of the peace agreement.

The cabinet also discussed the results of the meetings of the donor nations in Paris, in which a Palestinian delegation took part. The delegation was led by Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, minister of finance. The cabinet also discussed the issue of legislative elections.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the cabinet issued a statement which was read by Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat.

[Abu-Rudaynah] The National Authority cabinet this morning studied the serious Israeli escalation in holy Jerusalem, especially with regard to the isolation of the city of Jerusalem and the expropriation of lands in it.

The cabinet took note of President Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] decision to refer this issue to the Security Council and to lodge a formal protest and follow up on this issue so that the Security Council may issue a resolution to halt these measures and confront these violations.

The cabinet decided to follow up on this serious issue with the two sponsors of the peace conference, the EU states, Egypt, Norway, and the rest of the permanent Security Council member states.

The cabinet decided to ask the Arab League Council to meet urgently at the level of the foreign ministers of the Arab countries to deal with this issue and to face this serious aggression. It also decided to ask the Islamic Conference to hold an urgent joint session with the Jerusalem Committee, which is chaired by His Majesty King Hassan II.

The cabinet stressed that these serious measures coincide with the continued isolation of Jerusalem and the prevention of the sons of the Palestinian people from performing religious rites.

The National Authority's cabinet considers the policy of the Israeli Government toward Jerusalem as an official declaration repudiating all the principles of the peace process. It calls on all Palestinian nationalist and Islamic forces and Arab and Christian forces to shoulder their responsibilities in defending holy Jerusalem, its land, people, and holy shrines. It also calls on all the fraternal and Islamic Arab states and all the international forces to take firm measures to stop these serious violations. The

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cabinet also calls on the Islamic group and the international Christian forces to act quickly to protect Jerusalem, whether within the context of the United Nations and the Security Council or by playing a direct role and through their connections with various political forces.

The National Authority's cabinet asserts that the Israeli Government will bear all the consequences of its continued policy of settlement activity and expansion, especially in holy Jerusalem. The National Authority will take all steps that are dictated by its national, pan-Arab, and religious duties to stop this serious development that threatens the destiny of our land, people, holy shrines, and Jerusalem.

[Al-Za'nun] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said the expropriation of Palestinian lands in Jerusalem is the highest point of terrorism that is practiced on the ground to change demographic realities. Dr. 'Urayqat said these are plans to Judaize Jerusalem as a prelude to evacuating its Arab residents. [end recording]

Minister Assails Move as Unilateral

NC3004083895 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 30 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, in Jerusalem, by Muhammad al-Aswad, in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-Aswad] Dr. Sa'ib, could you brief us first on the political dimensions of the Israeli decision, which seems not only to be expropriation of an area of land, but also confiscation of the Palestinian right to Jerusalem.

['Urayqat] These decisions do not only constitute a flagrant and obvious violation of what was agreed upon regarding negotiations over the status of Jerusalem in the final stages. By creating a fait accompli, Israel is unilaterally trying to decide the fate of Jerusalem through settlement and expropriation of land instead of through negotiations.

This plan, which is to expropriate 4,400 dunums of land from eastern Jerusalem, consists of creating the [word indistinct] wall around eastern Jerusalem, from (Ma'-liyat Zamin) in the east to (Evrat) in the south to the settlements of (Jib'at Zayev) in the north in the Ramallah area.

This is the triangle that Israel has been trying to finalize for some time. This plan has now been turned into a public Israeli decision. The Palestinian Authority met under President Yasir 'Arafat for this purpose. We decided to resort to the UN Security Council, to call the Arab League to meet on the foreign ministers' level as soon as possible, and to ask the Islamic Conference Organization to meet. In addition, we decided to take field action and form a higher committee for Jerusalem chaired by brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] personally to confront the situation on the ground. Truly, what Israel is now doing, as I said earlier, is not just a flagrant violation of the agreement, but the highest kind of terrorism that is being practiced against our Palestinian people in the campaign to Judaize Jerusalem in preparation for expelling its original residents. This is a kind of terrorism that affects the lives of people, their livelihood, their homes, their land. Therefore, through its thuggery, Israel cannot continue to claim that there is a peace process while continuing to do these things.

[Al-Aswad] Perhaps the most dangerous aspect of the recent Israeli decision and other similar decisions regarding the expropriation of Palestinian land is that in addition to constituting a violation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, it creates new facts that bar the Palestinians from obtaining their independent state. The question now is how can we put an end to all of this?

['Urayqat] As I have said earlier regarding the campaign we will be carrying out, we will also talk to the Israeli side. We will present the case to the two cosponsors of the peace conference and the European Union countries. Unfortunately, you all know the problems Russia is going through now as one of the sponsors of the peace process. You also know the blind U.S. bias to Israel. I believe that in the final analysis the issue will continue to be a confrontation between our people and these Israeli decisions. We will do all we can on the ground and in the field to cling to our land and preserve the Arab identity of Jerusalem and our Islamic and Christian holy shrines in this city. [passage omitted]

[Al-Aswad] Dr. 'Urayqat, there are leaks about additional channels of Palestinian-Israeli contacts and secret negotiations with the Israeli side on redeployment and holding elections. How true is this and do the negotiations require such channels now?

['Urayqat] What I would like to say here is that four months ago, in a meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, the public announcement was made that negotiations over the redeployment will take place on the level of President 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin. Now, there are contacts taking place over this issue. These are not secret negotiations or contacts. These contacts have the objective of decreasing the time limit set for the end of June for signing the transitional agreement, foremost of whose issues is redeployment.

What I am trying to say is that these contacts continue, but there is nothing we can offer now in the way of progress or some tangible development. Otherwise, the negotiations over the elections are taking place in Cairo in public. [passage omitted]

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Al-Husayni To Discuss Measures at UN

JN0105074895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, National Authority [NA] member and official in charge of the Jerusalem file, cut short his visit to Los Angeles and left for New York last night, the headquarters of the United Nations.

Al-Husayni has been tasked by President Yasir 'Arafat to meet with the UN Security Council president and UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali to discuss the recent Israeli confiscation of large areas of East Jerusalem land.

The NA member told the press yesterday that the Israeli measures violate the Oslo agreement and are an Israeli attempt to impose a fait accompli. Al-Husayni said that the Palestinian side is taking the confiscation of land in Arab Jerusalem seriously, and considers this a threat to the negotiations. He said that the NA is examining expeditious measures to confront the Israeli step.

PLO Files Protest With UN

JN2904090495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nasir al-Qudwah, PLO representative at the United Nations, yesterday filed an official protest with the UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali and Security Council President Karel Kovanda. The protest calls on the United Nations to take urgent measures to cancel the Israeli decision to confiscate Palestinian lands in the East Jerusalem area. The protest memorandum describes the confiscation of Palestinian lands as a serious and illegitimate step and a blatant violation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, which calls for maintaining the present status of Jerusalem and for not taking unilateral measures in the holy city before discussing its status in the final talks, which should be held no later than the beginning of the third year of the interim stage. The memorandum also describes the confiscation as a violation of humanitarian and international laws, as well as related Security Council resolutions.

Hamas Threatens Attacks Over Move

TA3004125095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is threatening to continue terrorist attacks to protest the expropriation of land in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that a leaflet distributed by the movement asserts that this is the most effective way to fight the occupation. [passage omitted]

Hamas Calls For Jihad

NC3004113495 Paris AFP in English 1047 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ramallah, West Bank, April 30 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement HAMAS called Sunday [30 April] for Palestinians to launch a holy war or jihad against Israel's expropriation of Arab land in East Jerusalem.

"We urge all the Palestinian people to step up attacks and the jihad against the army of occupation and against the hordes of settlers and colonialists," HAMAS said in a statement.

The group called a strike in the Palestinian territories on Monday to halt the expropriations.

Israel this week announced that 53 hectares or 131 acres of East Jerusalem, which was annexed in 1967, had been confiscated by government order to build homes for Jews.

In another statement, HAMAS threatened to kill Israeli security agents whom it held responsible for the death of a Palestinian under interrogation last week.

"You will pay the price," for the death of 'Abd-al-Samid Hrizat, 30, HAMAS warned.

Fatah Urges Halt to Talks

TA3004110995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Fatah Movement has called on the Palestinian Authority to halt negotiations with Israel because of land expropriations in East Jerusalem. Fatah also asked that a fund be set up for the owners of the land. The demands were included in a leaflet distributed in the territories.

Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, the adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, has said that if Israel seizes Arab-owned land, the Palestinian Authority will not be able to continue with the peace process.

'Arafat Discusses Peace Process With Israel

TA2804171495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ (MUSAF supplement) in Hebrew 28 Apr 95 pp 14, 16

[Article by Gid'on Levi: "I Am the Oldest, the Most Knowledgeable"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On Sunday [23 April], members of the directorate of the International Center for Peace in the Middle East, which is affiliated with the moderate Israeli left wing, paid a visit to Yasir 'Arafat in his Gaza office. Some of them reminded him that they had met before, somewhere between Stockholm and Tunis. 'Arafat spoke for two hours before this closed forum. These were remarks by a leader who feels hurt, disappointed, and quite bitter. 'Ofer Bronstein, the center's director general, tried to talk to him about projects and a joint university, but 'Arafat constantly reverted to political issues, mainly to what he sees as Israel's greatest mistakes and misses. He is certain that the Israeli Government is not doing enough to explain to its citizens what would happen and

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what damage would be caused to Israel if the process were to fail. His remarks on this issue were impressive. [passage omitted]

"We remember your mistake when you prevented Benazir Bhutto from visiting Gaza. You know what? Her visit with me could have been Pakistan's first step toward Israel. Had she come, she would have visited Jerusalem as well, and then she could have met with official Israeli representatives, publicly or in secret. This could have been a step forward for you as well. But you acted with disrespect toward her, and she had to cancel the visit. This is the reason why the Tunisian deputy foreign minister [title as published], who visited here a few days ago, refused to have any contacts with the Israelis, despite the fact that Tunisia has opened every door to Israel.

"You must ask your government why it acts the way it does. It seems that the Israeli decisionmakers do not understand the Middle Eastern dilemma. I can understand that their clinging to the excuse of security, and I understand the Israelis' need for security. No doubt about this. But I must remind you that when it comes to implementing agreements, Israel always comes up with new excuses to postpone or not implement what was agreed. When I first arrived in Gaza, even before the terror started, Rabin said that there are no sacred dates. Later they told us: There is not enough money to meet our commitment to implement the agreement. So, we went to Brussels and got the money for the coming year, and now you use the excuse of security. Anything to delay and put off things.

"I noticed that every time I made some agreement with Rabin, a terrible act of terror followed. The first time, I thought it was a coincidence; I believed it to be a coincidence the second time, too. The third time, it could no longer be considered coincidental, especially not after Bet Lid. I ordered our security personnel to investigate the Bet Lid blast, and then I found out that the two youths who perpetrated the attack had spent the previous night in the village of Dahaniya (a village of collaborators near Rafah, on the border with Egypt—G.L.). No Palestinian can get there. Our businessmen can travel as far as Netzarim or Qatif and deal with legitimate trade or mafia business, but Dahaniya? Even the joint patrols cannot go there. They are afraid. How did these two young men get there at night, change into phony IDF [Israel Defense Forces] uniforms, and travel by car from Dahaniya to Bet Lid? They obtained the explosives in Dahaniya that night or before. I have the right to ask how the car could cross six or seven—well, all right, perhaps five or even three—IDF roadblocks between Dahaniya and Bet Lid? How is it that two terrorists dressed in phony uniforms with a car packed with explosives were not afraid of being stopped at the roadblocks? I raised these questions during the summit meeting with Mubarak, Rabin, and Husayn in Cairo. Rabin was furious. He said: No, no, no, and walked out of the room. Later, Mubarak brought him back in. I told him: Suppose I am a liar. Let us establish a joint committee of inquiry, an Israeli-Palestinian- Egyptian-Jordanian committee. He said no and that we should settle this between us.

"In our following meeting at Erez, I raised this again. I suggested that we set up a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee. He did not react. Then he suddenly started talking Hebrew, which I, regrettably, do not understand. When he noticed that one of my colleagues was translating his remarks for me, he asked one of his generals to answer me. I asked him to react, and he declined again. I am telling you all this because, frankly, there are certain unusual aspects in this affair. Who took the two terrorists from Dahaniya to Bet Lid?"

One of his advisers whispered something in his ear, and 'Arafat quickly added: "I am not saying it was Rabin or the army or the government. I am saying that there are certain elements, on both sides, who want to torpedo the peace process." [passage omitted]

He moves to the next issue. "I am certain that the extremist Muslim movements will take part in the elections in the territories. I know Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. They will maneuver and maneuver and in the end will take part, just like they did in Jordan and Egypt. This is why I said from the start that the elections should be held as soon as possible. The elections will entirely change the atmosphere. The minute Hamas and the Islamic Jihad decide to take part in the elections, their moods will change. They will no longer be able to go on with their old slogans, because these will be elections for the Palestinian Authority. Once they join in, it will mean that they accept the entire picture and that they want to be a part of it. To my regret, the date for elections has not been determined yet. It all depends on the IDF redeployment. To this day, I have had many dates presented to me but none has been met. I wish to remind you that at the time, they even mentioned 1 November last year.

"Besides, following the recent terror incidents, these organizations lost much of their standing in the eyes of our people, because I pushed them to the wall. As we are speaking, a group outside is expressing support for me. Every day some group comes to express support for me. As you know, we have detained many Hamas and Islamic Jihad members and have established the Higher State Security Court, an act which was even criticized by several Israelis. I had to set it up, however, in order to deliver the message that I am not fooling around when it comes to security affairs. Just at that time, however, came this stupid Shin Bet move relating to the passports, which again strengthened the extremists.

"The closure on Gaza gives Hamas an advantage, because it has funds while we do not. Its funds arrive from the United States. I know everything about the Middle East dilemma. I am the oldest and most knowledgeable, and I know everything. I have my sources and I know that a week ago—no, actually some 10 or 12 days

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ago—a meeting was held in Washington between Hamas and U.S. Administration representatives. I know precisely who participated in the meeting: Ahmad Yusuf and Musa Abu-Marzuq on Hamas' behalf. After the meeting, one of them remained in Washington and the other left. Mr. Clinton has announced that he is freezing the Hamas funds in the United States, but I know that despite this, it is continuing to transfer funds from its frozen accounts. It is also receiving funds from Kuwait. Our money in Kuwait is frozen, while Hamas' is not. Is the U.S. Administration unable to convince Kuwait to stop supporting the extremist Islamic elements? I am presenting you with the facts. Hamas admitted that it held an important meeting in Washington, but I knew about it before this announcement.

"The closure is creating great difficulties for us. Hamas is distributing money, food, contributions, while we do not have any money to hand out. The damage caused by the closure has been described by all Israeli newspapers—rather, by most of them—and this situation is continuing. Today's headline in AL-NAHAR says that Gaza has been freed from the occupation and conquered by poverty.

"You fail to understand one basic thing: If your process with us collapses, neither King Husayn nor Egypt, Senegal, and Mandela will pursue their relations with you. Mandela insisted on establishing full diplomatic relations with us and keeps saying that he will never forget how, when he was totally isolated in the international arena, we continued to support him. You will not be able to pursue your relations with Mugabe, Ethiopia, Mozambique, the rest of Africa, and the five Muslim countries in Central Asia. You will not be able to pursue your relations with any of these countries or with China. You are familiar with our strong relations with all these countries. When you signed the Camp David accords with Egypt, the world did not open up to you. Only after you signed your agreement with us did this happen. This must be made clear to everybody in Israel. The Israelis must realize that the peace process with us can herald a new era, but if it fails, everything will collapse. This must be made clear to every Israeli. Rabin spoke about this one time, but only once. He must continue to repeat this fact. There is absolutely no alternative to the peace process. If we fail, we will all pay the price. All of us.

"The Soviet Union was the most powerful country on earth, and look what has remained of it. Its nuclear arsenal remains a problem for the whole world. It was left in the possession of the greatest nuclear arsenal in the world. This means that one cannot rule by force but only by peaceful means. You have no idea what kind of negative reaction there will be in the entire region if the process with us fails. You do not realize how this will back fire [last two words in English) throughout the region. It is not only a matter of an end to your relations with Mugabe. You must realize that it will back fire [last two words in English) both against you and me. All of us together. As Peres said, it is absolutely impossible to indefinitely control another people. It is possible to do so for 10 or 20 years, but after this, it becomes a joke. Britain has problems in Ireland until today, and even it signed an agreement there after we signed our agreement.

"Netanyahu is trying to revive the Jordanian option in the West Bank. There are others who are trying to do this. The confiscation of the Palestinian passports is a signal for the Jordanian option. The Shin Bet people are no fools; this is what they are trying to do.

"We do not have friends in the U.S. Congress as you do. This is why we do not have any U.S. investments. Both the Europeans and the Americans do not invest in Gaza, however, because the lack of stability there. A closure is not a sign of stability. Who will invest funds in an area that is under closure? As you know, there are rich Palestinians all over the world. Some of them came and expressed an interest in investing here, but they ran because of the closure. How do you expect anybody to invest in Gaza when one cannot export anything from here?" [passage omitted]

'Arafat Says 'Huge Arms Depot' Uncovered in Gaza

JN2904191695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has disclosed that the Palestinian security forces have uncovered a huge arms depot in Gaza city. Presidential Secretary al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim cited the president as saying during the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] cabinet meeting today that some sides in Israel cooperate with certain sides in the Palestinian National Authority areas to bring explosives into the Gaza Strip to realize the joint aim of destroying the entire peace process.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that 'Arafat asked the Israeli official to exert sincere efforts to prevent the smuggling of explosives from Israel to the PNA areas.

Civil Defense Chief Replaced; Bomb Cache Denied

JN3004082095 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Apr 95 p 30

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza—QUDS PRESS—Well-informed Palestinian sources have said that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has dismissed Brigadier General Mahmud Abu-Marzuq, director of the Gaza Strip Civil Defense Department, and replaced him with Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahid. The sources told a QUDS PRESS correspondent that the decision came against the backdrop of a news conference held by civil defense experts following the explosion in the Shaykh Rawdan district in Gaza. The experts denied remarks by Brigadier Ghazi al-Jibali, Palestinian police director general, about the discovery of rockets, bombs, and explosives in the house where a

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number of Palestinians were killed, including some Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] military leaders.

'Urayqat Outlines Election Preparations

NC2904173095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 29 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, local government minister in the Palestinian Authority [PA], has stated that for the first time in the Palestinian people's history a three-week training program began today to train 6,000 Palestinian male and female teachers in all the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem areas on preparing an electoral register.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, he said: We have received from Israel the names of 1,172,000 Palestinians in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem who are over 18 years of age. Also 1,500 electoral committees have been approved and set up in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Strip.

Dr. 'Urayqat added: As for the date for holding the elections, we have a time limit for concluding the negotiations on the transition stages—the end of June. The negotiations involve six issues: the redeployment of Israeli forces outside the populated areas in the West Bank, the elections, a review of the laws, the transfer of authority, the security issues, and the economic ones. He noted that the redeployment issue is the key one. He added: We will need only 60 days to hold the elections after the agreement on transition stages is signed by the PA and the Israeli Government.

The PA's local government minister went on to say: The negotiations have so far not made enough progress or met our genuine desire to reach an agreement. Contacts are continuing on a number of issues.

Regarding the European role in the elections process, Dr. 'Urayqat said: The European Union is a full partner in this process, both by providing full financial backing and by extending legal, technical, administrative, and training aid.

He added: Israel cannot say now that the Palestinian side is not ready for the elections. We are completely ready to hold them, and Europe can testify to that.

Sha'th Calls Security Court 'Message' to Opposition

JN3004083195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, has said that the State Security Court formed by the National Authority is a message addressed to the opposition.

In a press statement, he said the Palestinian Authority had to deliver a message that it will not tolerate violations of the agreement signed with Israel or of the security of the National Authority areas.

Dr. Sha'th said: The State Security Court is not an indicator of the future behavior of the National Authority, and we do not intend to violate human rights.

Gaza Court Imprisons Arms Smugglers for First Time

TA3004125395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Gaza Military Court has for the first time imposed prison sentences on two arms smugglers. Palestinian Authority [PA] sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the two smugglers, both residents of the Gaza Strip, purchased the weapons from Israeli criminals and sold them inside the Strip.

Quray' 'Fed Up' With Donor Countries Meetings

JN3004165295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 30 Apr 95

[Report on interview with Ahmad Quray', official in charge of economic affairs in the Palestinian Authority, by Rajih Qaddur; place and date not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In exclusive statements to our radio, Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala', official in charge of economy, trade, and industry in the Palestinian Authority, reacted to the outcome of the recent donor states conference in Paris. He said:

"We in fact are fed up, extremely fed up with the way the donor states and other countries are dealing with the question of aid to the Palestinian people. We are facing major responsibilities. We are in a critical phase. We are engaged in a peace process which is undergoing a real test. We have numerous and endless meetings. I think that the donor states have spent on their meetings more than they paid to the Palestinian people. Therefore, this has become a really boring topic. I am no longer enthusiastic, not even about talking about this issue. We now have a budget deficit. They either help us, or else... [changes thought] the issue has become [word indistinct] and one can no longer put up with it. Despite that, the results were reasonable. A pledge was made to cover the deficit of this Palestinian budget, which brother Abu-Zuhdi [Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, official in charge of finance in the Palestinian Authority] presented very well. Projects were not discussed at all in this meeting, but it was agreed to have a meeting in July to discuss projects. We hope that meeting will produce something. Otherwise, the situation will not very good."

We asked Abu-'Ala' what he thinks is the solution to this situation. He said:

"I believe that we as Palestinians must first join forces as an authority and people. We must also amass our people's economic and political forces and discuss our own affairs among ourselves. I believe that self-reliance is the basic element. What comes then from the donor states, we will

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thank them for anything they offer, whether it is $1 or $1 billion. We cannot rely on foreign aid to build our economy. Foreign aid will be an auxiliary factor, but self-reliance is the main thing. We must encourage the Palestinian private sector to come here. We must organize our relations with our Arab brothers since they constitute our strategic depth. This way, I believe, we can meet the conditions of this phase. We must set the appropriate legal framework or system to encourage investment. This, in my view, is the solution. Otherwise, things will be very difficult. We have a meeting every one or two months, and say the donor states have met, decided to do such and such thing, discussed this or that issue, set this or that condition, and so forth. We have had enough agreements. We formulated more than five or six agreements, each of which contradicts the other. Therefore, it is not very good now to rely on the donor states."

Jerusalem Plan Focuses on Social Development

TA0105071395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 May 95 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian leaders in Jerusalem have adopted a plan to develop the Moslem Quarter of the Old City, in an effort to assert their influence in light of plans for Jewish development in eastern Jerusalem.

Palestinian sources said the plan was taken by Faysal al-Husayni, the leading PLO official in Jerusalem, on his recent trip to the Gulf states and presented to leaders there.

It remained unclear, however, whether al-Husayni received any or all of the plan's estimated $27 million cost.

"The Moslem world looks upon Jerusalem, particularly the Old City, with special attention," states the plan, a copy of which was obtained by THE JERUSALEM POST.

"Just as the Jewish Quarter represents Jerusalem for the Jewish world, so does the Moslem Quarter ... represent Jerusalem for the Islamic world." This connection can be used to raise funds for the project, the plan says.

The plan was composed by Muhammad Nahal, a Palestinian researcher in Jerusalem, who has also carried out other work for al-Husayni on the potential for Palestinian development in the city.

Al-Husayni has tried in recent months to raise funds for Moslem Quarter development, but has been turned away because until his last visit he never had a detailed plan in hand.

The plan is divided into two parts—construction and social development. Some $21m. is budgeted for construction, repairs and infrastructure, and $6.75m. for social and welfare projects, such as schools, day care centers and clinics.

Nahal carried out a survey of the Moslem Quarter and found 2,425 apartments. Additional floors would be added to 121 of the apartments and additional rooms to another 121.

The bulk of the apartments would undergo external and internal renovation to make the old buildings more livable, but not disturb their historical value.

Poor conditions in the quarter have sparked wealthier residents to find housing elsewhere, leaving behind a community plagued with economic and social problems, the plan says.

Nahal states that municipal approval will be required for some of the work, and suggests that Orient House—the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem—and City Hall cooperate on the project.

"The political problem caused by Jerusalem being a topic in the final stage of negotiations does not necessarily have to mean Moslem Quarter development cannot be carried out," Nahal writes in the plan.

He also noted that the cooperation of the Wakf will also be needed, because it owns many of the buildings in the Moslem Quarter. The few Jewish-owned homes are not discussed in the plan.

Hamas Spokesman Denies Connection With Bahrain Hamas

JN0105074495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 May 95 p 22

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has denied that it is connected in any way whatsoever to any Bahraini group of the same name. A Bahraini group with the same name has threatened to continue its anti-government activities in the first statement it has issued.

In a statement to REUTER yesterday, Official Hamas Spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah added that his movement does not have anything to do with Bahraini opposition groups. He denied that Hamas had issued any statements regarding the Bahraini opposition.

The Hamas official was reacting to a statement issued in the name of the Islamic Resistance Movement-Bahrain Hamas [harakat al- muqawamah al-islamiyah-hamas al-bahrayn], in which it made threats against the Bahraini Government.

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Ghawshah said that Hamas denounces the use of its name in signing any statements regarding the Bahraini opposition.

Ghawshah denied that the Islamic [Resistance] Movement maintains any presence in the Gulf region, including Bahrain. He added that the basic body of Hamas exists and operates only in the occupied territories, and that it does not have any affiliates in the Gulf region.

Ghawshah went on to say that Hamas rejects the use of its name by any group, and deems it an effort to taint the [Islamic Resistance] Movement, whose operations are targeted against the occupation.

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Algeria

IMF, U.S. Backing For Economic Reforms 'Welcome'

LD2904212595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The economic reforms and the structural readjustment plan for Algeria have been welcomed by the financial institutions. With the spring session in Washington of the IMF and the World Bank in the background, Michel Camdessus, the head of the IMF, has reiterated his congratulations to Algerian negotiators. The president of the IMF interim committee said he was impressed by the parts of the program achieved thus far. He told the Algerian finance minister [Ahmed Benbitour] that Belgium is giving its full support in its dealings with the IMF and the Paris Club.

As for the U.S. deputy secretary general of the Treasury, he made a positive assessment of the reforms and the prospects for the Algerian economy. He also told Mr. Benbitour of the support of the United States for the Algerian program.

These comments are welcome since the Algerian program will be debated on 22 May upcoming. The IMF could then release $1.8 billion toward the Algerian program.

Prime Minister Says Security Situation 'Improving'

LD2804190295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi in a statement to the Cairo daily AL-AHRAM said that the security situation is improving and that the crisis is being tackled through the adoption of a number of measures. Sifi underlined that the important and main aspect of the multi-dimensional crisis is the political side. He also said that: I have my reservation concerning the security situation but I say that it is important when the matter concerns the question of respect for the law and the Constitution by all.

Sifi affirmed that there is evidence that the security situation has improved a great deal and that this had been possible as a result not only due to the security forces but it was also due to the stand and awareness of the Algerian people who began to participate in combating terrorism.

About the progress of the dialogue, Sifi said that it must include all the sections of the Algerian people. He confirmed that the dialogue will continue even after the presidential elections. Organizing these elections is one of several measures taken in order to get out of the crisis.

FIS: Elections Will Not Restore Normalcy

MM2804150195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Apr 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Haddam: Algerian Elections Will Not Normalize Situation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Anouar Haddam, head of the Parliamentary Mission of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] abroad, held a press conference in Washington the day before yesterday in which he reaffirmed the FIS' adherence to the "national covenant" reached with seven other opposition parties and a human rights association at the beginning of the year in Rome. He said that the covenant was still considered common ground contributing to the serious search for a peaceful solution to the Algerian crisis.

He said that the Algerian regime's rejection of the Rome convenant meant refusal to go to the "negotiating table on the Algerian people's terms expressed by their legitimate elected representatives." He was referring to the 1991 legislative elections, which were canceled.

He said that the number of victims of violence in Algeria has reached 50,000 and that 1,000 are killed every week. He accused the Algerian regime of shelling the villages around the town of Ain Defla at the end of last March during the clashes which broke out in the area between the security forces and the armed Islamic group.

The Algerian regime, he said, is now trying to secure legitimacy through the elections it intends to hold before the end of the year. He added that the national convenant parties refused to participate in elections under the emergency laws and in deteriorating security conditions. He said that "the elections will not solve the illegitimacy problem and will not guarantee the restoration of normal conditions."

He talked about the economic situation in Algeria. He said that "the Parliamentary Mission wishes to remind the international community of the position of the FIS National Executive Bureau, namely that the future Algerian state will not be bound by any economic or noneconomic agreement concluded after the 11 January 1992 coup with the current illegitimate and terrorist regime."

Egypt

Daily Claims U.S. Considered Downing Libyan Jet

LD2904191395 Tehran IRNA in English 1729 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, April 29, IRNA—The United States was contemplating to shoot down a Libyan aircraft carrying pilgrims to Saudi Arabia for the annual hajj last week, Egyptian weekly paper AL-'ARABI reported in a front-page exclusive.

The plane's departure was delayed and its flight plans changed after some friendly Arab and European countries informed the Libyans about the U.S. intention either to shoot down the plane over the Mediterranean or force it to land. The U.S. Navy shot down an Iranian airbus over the Persian Gulf in 1988 killing 297 passengers and crew on board in one of the most blatant acts of state terrorism.

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A Libyan airliner carrying 150 pilgrims flew from Tripoli to Jeddah through Egyptian airspace on April 19, defying United Nations sanctions that ban international flights from Libya. It was impossible for U.S. fighter planes to intercept the Libyan plane over Egyptian airspace, noted AL-'ARABI.

"We tried to send back the plane but we could not because we cannot deal with it as if it were a hostile plane," Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said. After the incident, the U.N. sanctions committee approved a Egyptian request to organise 45 pilgrim flights between Libya and Saudi Arabia.

Israel's Land Expropriation Causes 'Deep Concern'

NC3004154695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt has received with deep concern the news that Israel has decided to expropriate 530 hectares of Palestinian land in east Jerusalem to build settlement houses and an Israeli police station. An official Foreign Ministry source said the decision is a flagrant violation of international conventions, UN resolutions, and the text and spirit of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and the Cairo accord, signed on 4 May 1994.

The source stressed Egypt's firm stand on the question of Jerusalem, which, just like the other occupied Arab territories, is covered by Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace. The source stressed the need to avoid unilateral decisions that change the status of the city; and he emphasized that any legal, geographic, or demographic changes that Israel tries to introduce that alter the status of Jerusalem will not be recognized until this issue which is so sensitive and important to all sides is solved in the final-stage negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis, in accordance with the Declaration of Principles.

The source's statement concludes by asserting Egypt's call on Israel to rescind such decisions, which threaten the peace process and create extremely serious obstacles to a just and lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and a comprehensive peace.

Twenty-One Detained 'Terrorists' Reveal Information

NC3004160695 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 25 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by 'Adil al-Suruji]

[FBIS Translated Text] The security organs have foiled a terrorist action by 21 terrorist members of the so-called Islamic Group organization. Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi issued an order for their arrest, while Counselor Hisham Saraya, public attorney at the Higher State Security Prosecution Office, ordered their detention for an extra 15 days following the preliminary period of detention, pending the conclusion of investigations. The order was issued following information given by a number of defendants to the Prosecution Office.

An AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I correspondent has learned that Counselor Saraya has asked that the technical reports on the examination of the seized weapons, bullets, and explosives be expedited in order to confront the defendants with them.

Members of that terrorist organization have given important information. They reported that they monitored a number of important state figures and senior authors and journalists in order to carry out hostile actions against them and that this was part of a plan they intended to execute in Greater Cairo in order to confuse public opinion.

The investigations, which are being handled by Public Prosecution officials Usamah Qandil, 'Adil Fayyad, 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Halawani, and Sharif 'Abd-al-Nabi, revealed that the defendants have divided the organization into wings. One wing was given the task of military training and bearing arms, a second wing was tasked with educating the members, a third was responsible for monitoring, and the fourth was tasked with planning. The investigations also revealed that the defendants had divided Cairo into several zones: The first was the al-Wayli zone, under terrorist Budayr Muhammad Budayr; the second was the al-Zawiyah al-Hamra' zone, under terrorist Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mawjud; and the third was the al-Amiriyah zone, under terrorist Sayyid Ibrahim.

The investigations also revealed that the defendants had prepared a plan for a number of terrorist actions involving stealing and looting shops in the al-Zaytun and 'Ayn Shams areas as well as throwing explosives at video shops.

The investigations have confirmed that the terrorists had already committed a number of terrorist actions, including throwing explosives at a police vehicle in the Ghamrah area.

Thirteen MB Members Arrested in Alexandria

NC3004200295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Apr (MENA)—A responsible security source in the Interior Ministry stated today that the State Security Intelligence organs have arrested 13 leading members of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood [MB] organization in Alexandria and that the printing presses and centers used by these elements to prepare and store pamphlets in preparation for distribution during the 'Id al-Adha feast prayers have been seized.

The source said that the operation was part of the security organs' ongoing positive operations, which are continuing and developing as decisive and effective

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blows to the extremist and terrorist groups by raiding their dens, criminal cells, and secret hide-outs in all of Egypt's governorates.

The security source added: Following some monitored information which was backed by material and legal evidence, the east Alexandria prosecution office issued a warrant to arrest all the elements involved in this action and to search each person and place of residence and their organizational centers. In execution of this warrant, the security organs arrested the above elements and seized a huge quantity of provocative pamphlets ready for distribution, slogans for the Humanitarian Relief Committee and the dissolved MB, a number of computer discs, and organizational papers for these hostile schemes. All these were handed over to the prosecution office so it can start its investigations.

The prosecution office has charged those involved with joining a group established in contravention of the law with the intention of violating the Constitution and with possession of pamphlets that propagate these ideas and exploit religion to spread extremist ideas aimed at fomenting sedition. The office decided to detain them for 15 days pending investigations and to arrest four others. An expert was tasked with the examination of the computer discs.

Mubarak Addresses UN Congress on Crime

NC2904105895 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 0807 GMT 29 Apr 95

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak at the opening session of the Ninth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders at the International Conference Center in Madinat al-Nasr in Cairo on 29 April—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: President of the congress, representative of the UN secretary general, ministers and heads of delegations, ladies and gentlemen. I am very pleased to welcome you to Cairo, the city of science and justice, the lighthouse of justice and sovereignty for the law, the fortress of freedom and equality among people in rights and duties. We consider the convocation of the Ninth UN Congress on the prevention of crime and establishment of criminal justice on our land as an international appreciation that Egypt—government and people—is proud of, after it was honored with hosting the International Conference for Population and Development in September 1994. Egypt was anxious to see that this conference reached conclusions and developed programs that reflected a futuristic international viewpoint on an issue that is very important. This is the relationship between the increase in population and comprehensive social development.

Today the meetings of your esteemed congress start. This congress is dedicated to the discussion of ways to prevent crime, establish justice, and implement the law. This is a vital topic that has dimensions that affect the security of citizens and homelands and guarantee stability, as well as development and growth, inside countries and cordial relations among them. This congress is an honest call for shouldering the international responsibility through the opportunities it provides for in-depth discussions and chances to participate in formulating a better future for society amid international and regional changes that require positive and constructive interaction with the requirements of the age in which we are living and among societies and people.

Confronting the dangerous criminal phenomena that have spread around the world with their various forms and images now require joint international action to create progressive criminal, social, and economic policies to fortify societies against crime to establish security, strengthen the pillars of peace, and bolster respect for spiritual and moral values that are entrenched in the conscience of societies and peoples, particularly in light of the major and effective role of these values to confront deviation and perversion among individuals and groups. Other objectives are to protect family ties and avert the dangers of the disintegration of these ties, since the family is the nucleus of society and the initial environment for children and youths.

Ladies and gentlemen: There is no doubt that managing justice in general and the pertinent policies on the prevention of crime and treatment of criminals in particular is an issue that has a direct effect on the state's system and society's stability. A state that makes progress in establishing a fair judicial system regarding legislation and implementation is considered to be a democratic state. Such a state enjoys the international community's appreciation and esteem and in it a citizen can enjoy his rights fully within the framework of respecting the rights of others in a balanced and stable society aspiring to construction and growth.

The criteria of gauging nations' progress in our modern age are no longer confined to great material construction, plenty of natural resources, and a solid economic base. These criteria also take into consideration a balance in the growth and development of the people, namely, man whom God Almighty favored over all His other creatures and to whom He assigned a great mission: Construction of the earth and building glory and civilization on lofty, rational, and spiritual foundations.

Undoubtedly, the prevention of crime and fulfillment of justice is one of the main pillars of the administration of justice. Within this framework any progress in this field can be made and the problems and hurdles obstructing justice will become clear. Hence the importance of this congress, its deliberations, results, and recommendations.

Since the central issue of your congress basically revolves around studying and evaluating the current state of affairs, defining and classifying problems, and working out solutions, it will also focus on an important dimension characteristic of UN conferences, a dimension of enhancing

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international cooperation and defining its framework and its implications on all issues of discussion.

We all realize that crime and its modern implications now poses a direct threat to security, stability, and peace in the world and present an obstacle to economic and social development and growth. The repercussions of crime are no longer limited to particular individuals or groups, but have extended to threaten whole nations. This fact shows the need for international cooperation and coordination for a comprehensive confrontations of these serious dimensions of crime through effective measures designed to establish a safe, secure, and stable world. International cooperation today has become an essential factor for enhancing national progress in all areas. This, however, does not negate important facts that we must take into consideration.

The most important of these facts are:

1. Governments are the parties with the genuine competence and primary responsibility for drafting policies, developing strategies, and setting the priorities in all areas linked to the safety of citizens and society's security, progress, and prosperity.

2. The universality of principles and standards should not conflict with the distinct cultural character of every region or society. Universality should be a general framework for details and guidance, but each society should adhere to its tradition, from which it derives its roots.

3. National legislation is the solid base that should be entrenched and respected and whose implementation methods should be promoted. National legislation is the basis of any bilateral, regional, or international cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen: As they work to develop their political and economic systems and strengthen political participation to support the democratic process and open themselves up to a free-market economy, the developing countries are eager for this development to be accompanied by legislative development, whether it is rules and texts or systems and measures. Naturally, the state shoulders the major burden of this development in all its aspects. Nevertheless, we cannot ignore the importance of international support to speed up and solidify this transformation. Hence comes your valuable contribution to studying the best and most successful methods to bolster international cooperation; offer technical assistance to support the supremacy of law, promote UN anti-crime programs, and ensure criminal justice; define measures to combat organized economic crimes and environmental crimes; modernize and develop criminal justice systems; boost police services; and work out strategies to prevent crime in urban areas.

The United Nations has established rules for international cooperation in all human, social, and economic activities through the work of its specialized agencies and institutions and through the international conferences it has organized since the early nineties. Those conferences discussed the subjects of environment, human rights, population, social development, and criminal justice. This broad and integrated system of human activities can achieve well-being for man and the world community by deepening the role of international cooperation.

We aspire to make your esteemed congress adopt the measures and arrangements that could strengthen the exchange of information and expertise, transfer modern technology in the field of crime prevention, and enable the developing countries to strengthen the administration of justice, something we consider one of the most important pillars of social development in its full meaning.

Entrenching criminal justice is a necessary requirement for realizing the comprehensive and required growth for our developing countries. It is the basis for social security and peace. It is the guarantee for sound economic activity. It is the motor behind the continuous flow of investments for the sake of the prosperity of the people and raising their standard of living.

Within this framework, it becomes important to confront all obstacles in the local and international arena that could hamper the progress of justice. Most important among these are organized crime and terrorism. Recently, the world has seen developments and incidents revealing the increased danger of organized crime through modern technology, which is now being exploited to serve the objectives of such crime, thus threatening the safety, growth, and stability of society. There is no need to note that the international Napoli conference, which was held in November 1994, made a serious contribution to warning against the dangers of such crime, the need to intensify the international campaign to confront it, and the importance of setting the legal bases for combating it on the international, regional, and national levels. The Napoli conference also warned against the ever-increasing relationship between organized crime and terrorism. The Ninth Congress for the Prevention of Crime calls for studying and examining this relationship in depth.

Ladies and gentlemen, today social scientists, law experts, and men of justice and religion all agree that terrorism in our current age has become one of the most serious forms of organized crime. It is one of the major obstacles to stability and development, whether on the national or international level. I would like to invite you to intensify local and international efforts to ward off this danger, which threatens the individual and society, undermines the structure of security and peace, dissipates progress and well-being, and turns society into a lawless jungle. This modern crime has become an imminent danger confronting us all without exception. It is now shattering the pillars of the international community and placing obstacles before efforts to establish a better future for all.

In my view, the framework of preventing crime through ideal international agreements, extradition of criminals

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pacts, and the rules of judicial cooperation would guarantee an effective advance in confronting and containing this sinful crime and limiting its danger to every sober domestic and external effort.

Ladies and gentlemen: Our country, which in recent years has faced some aspects of this heinous crime, the crime of terrorism, has been eager to confront it within the framework of constitutional legitimacy and full respect for the principles of human rights. It is also eager that the world community face this regrettable phenomenon within a consistent and integrated framework that will strengthen our cooperation and remove the loopholes that the groups of organized crime use. This is the means that would enable us together to uproot terrorism, remove its evils, stop its dangers to the entire international community, and prevent it from demolishing the civilization of man as he approaches the threshold of a new century full of aspirations and challenges. This congress places before you a lofty mission that we hope you will fulfill effectively and capably out of your deep faith in the need to safeguard civilization at this delicate juncture of history. You shoulder a great responsibility toward strengthening the modern societies' ability to confront the dangers, which in recent decades have worsened in a manner that causes worry and requires vigilance. We have to face up to this responsibility with strong resolve and full realization of the importance of safeguarding the supremacy of law, fulfilling justice among individuals and groups, and striking a balance between rights and duties. May God grant you success in serving the peoples and bringing them happiness and enhancing relations and cooperation among states and peoples through advocating right, justice, law, and respect for legitimacy. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Al-Alfi, Algerian Minister Meet

NC2904114395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi met today with Algerian Justice Minister Mohamed Teguia after the opening session of the UN conference on crime.

They discussed aspects of cooperation between the two countries and the expertise Egypt could offer to Algeria to combat terrorism and all kinds of crime, especially in light of the success that the Egyptian security services have scored.

During the meeting, Minister al-Alfi stressed that Egypt is ready to offer all its expertise in the area of security cooperation in its various forms.

Earlier, the interior minister and the Algerian justice minister inspected the Interior Ministry's media center at the congress building. The guest acquainted himself with the methods used by the Interior Ministry's media apparatus and its role in confronting all kinds of crime through objective publication of facts.

[In a related Cairo-datelined report at 1117 GMT, MENA cites the Algerian justice minister as saying after the meeting that "there is a full agreement between Egypt and Algeria on security issues and on confronting anything that would harm the joint interests of the two countries, especially the problem of terrorism."]

Musa on NPT, NAM Conference, Meeting With Peres

NC2904063295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today will present a detailed report to President Husni Mubarak on the results of his contacts in Bandung, where he chaired Egypt's delegation to the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM]. Musa said he is carrying three messages to President Mubarak from Indonesian President Suharto, Bahriani Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, and Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani.

On his upcoming meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Cairo to discuss the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], Musa said: Peres will come to Cairo to attend the meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee. We will hold a meeting. This has nothing to do with the NPT, but the discussions may focus on Israel's nuclear program.

On the NAM conference and its position on the NPT, Musa said: There were various opinions. Many countries believe that an indefinite extension of the treaty is unacceptable for them. Some other countries do not object to such an extension, but legal commitments to correct the treaty and restore its balance must exist. The foreign minister stressed that the Bandung conference reached a consensus rejecting an unconditional extension of the NPT.

On Egypt's position on the renewal of the NPT, Musa said that the Egyptian position is firm. He said that a fair system must exist to ensure security for everybody in a region free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

The foreign minister returned to Cairo last night from Qatar at the end of a 12-day tour during which he chaired Egypt's delegation to the conference on the extension of the NPT in New York. He also visited Bahrain, Indonesia, and Qatar.

Official Denies 20,000 Detained in Prison

NC2904162995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Major General Ra'uf al-Manawi, assistant interior minister and official spokesman of the Egyptian delegation to the

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Ninth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, denied a report by one of the human rights organizations that there are 20,000 detainees in Egyptian prisons. He said that there are not enough prisons in Egypt to detain such a large number.

Speaking at a news conference this afternoon, Maj. Gen. al-Manawi said that the measures followed by the security organs to expand the circle of suspects so as to eliminate the dens of terrorism are stipulated in Egyptian law. In this respect he underlined the need to uproot the phenomenon of terrorism because it has a negative effect on national economies.

He added that Egypt presented a study on crime prevention during the preparatory meetings of the congress and this has been included in the agenda.

On the merging of the Egyptian and Turkish proposals, he said that the merger is a procedural matter, noting that the Egyptian proposal asserts that terrorism is organized crime that damages countries' development and stability.

Libya

U.S. Deserves 'First Place' on Terrorist List

LD2904170895 Tripoli JANA in English 1634 GMT 29 Apr 95

[JANA Headline—"When The Magic Turns Against The Magician"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Tripoli, al Tayr [April] 29, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—It was announced [word indistinct] yesterday that the American State Department has issued its so-called annual report on terrorism. The report claims Iraq, Syria, Libya, Sudan, North Korea, Cuba [word indistinct] continue to [words indistinct] terrorism in 1994. What is astonishing and dubious is that the American State Department's [reports] on terrorism had never, not even once, featured the name of the USA in any position on the list although America deserves the undisputed first place on it. [passage omitted]

The report, inspired by middle age mentality, condemns Libya for refusing, in particular, to extradite two Libyan suspects in the bombing of the Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland in 1988.

We, on our part, would like to say again and again that there was no terrorism and no one to terrorize hence the report is laughable and pathetic. In fact the issue is not more than a rejection of them USA and fighting it in a ferocious manner which is not compatible with resources allocated to development projects by some countries apd their prevention by America from using theiir sources and wealth in the way they deem appropriate and aborting their development plans and confining their aspirations for asserting their [word indistinct] and independence.

Thus, the report of the American State Department loses its credibility and would cannot withstand [as received] one moment before the reality of this issue and its true ramifications. Suffice it to stress that the continuation of America to use the lie of the sole power, the world's policeman, is a further evdidence that America has lost sight and mind [word indistinct] the collapse of the American dream of Americanizing the world as the peoples of the world watch the collapse of this empire in a manner not different in its essence to that of the USSR. Furthermore, what is happening in America is one hundred per cent an American product and no foreign party is linked to it directly or indirectly. It would always be useful to stress that the USA, as a superpower, is [a] state/continent in which peoples of the world contributed towards its construction and development but it turned against its founders at a time it has been, and still, hoped that it would harness its resources and capabilities to help others. [sentence as received]

Finally, once again we would like to assert that, as Arabs, all what we want from this America is to take its hands off of us we do not want one cent from it. We do not want one single university seat from America or a handful of wheat in return for a missile, bomb or bullets fired by criminal hands in darkness against a peaceful people which is seeking to protect its honour, freedom and independence.

JANA Addresses Attempts to Impede Hajj Rites

LD2904182795 Tripoli JANA in English 1722 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al Tayr [April] 29, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—America has dropped all its guises, which [it] used to use in dealing with [the] world's issues especially those concerning Arabs and Muslims.

Reports said that the American delegation to the so called U.N sanctions committee, which belongs to the American, English and French Governments, has strongly refused and threatened to use it to prevent Libyan pilgrims and Arab and Muslims in Libya who volunteered to go with them from travelling to the holy places and perform pilgrimage rites as required by almighty Allah.

This very serious American refusal came up with excuses which show premeditated bad faith for the orders of Allah did not allocate a given number of nationals from each country to fulfill pilgrimage duties.

This encroachment reached an extent which can only be interpreted that America went beyond the stage of anti Arab semitism to anti Muslim religion, Allah's religion embraced by one billion and 200 million Muslims spread throughout the globe. This matter cannot be ignored by any Muslim, however little he may be, or keep quiet about it.

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Denying the Libyans and their Arab and Muslim guests access to the holy places is merely a testing ball launched by Washington in the face of Muslims before it begins to limit their birth, behaviour patterns, orientations, working hours and nature of relations with even their families etc..

We would like to draw the attention of the international community to the seriousness of this terrorist measure and the sense of responsibility would require an earnest international stance in countering this abuse of feelings which no one can control at a larger scale and which might lead to unpredictable repercussions.

Mixing politics with religion, which secularist and liberal West claims to have overcome more than a century ago, is threatening to fuel a fierce and violent war between the masses of Muslims and those who are preventing them from fulfilling their religious rites as required by almighty Allah.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Denounces Pressure From Opposition

EA2804205095 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] al-Fashir, 28 Apr (SUNA)—Lieutenant General al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has stressed that the pressures being brought to bear on the country by the so-called Sudanese opposition by way of the United States and the United Kingdom cannot bear fruit, and that Sudan is capable of teaching these people a lesson in defense of its land and honor. He said this in the course of an address at a mass rally at al-Fashir town's green yesterday during his two-day tour of northern Darfur State. He went on to say that Sudan will not revoke the application of the Islamic Shari'ah [Islamic Law] or its cultural course, regardless of the severity of the blockade imposed by foreign forces on the country. He said that in the course of promoting development, the salvation revolution has fully empowered the people. He drew attention to the fact that the process of establishing parliaments in the states has been completed. His excellency referred to the promotion and mobilization of education countrywide by the establishment of universities in all the states of Sudan, pointing out that the first intake of al-Fashir University would graduate that morning.

Diplomatic Mission to Kampala Returns to Khartoum

EA2904165095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudanese diplomatic mission, led by Ambassador Inayat 'Abd-al-Hamid, this evening returned from Uganda to Khartoum.

Following their arrival at the airport, his excellency the ambassador said that the mission had faced mistreatment by the Ugandan authorities in the period just before its official deportation, and highlighted the Libyan role in the difficult circumstances.

He explained that he was surprised by the deportation of one of the diplomats which took place immediately after the signing of the agreement between Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the first vice president of the Republic, and the Ugandan prime minister, in the Jamahariyah [Libya] with Libyan mediation, ahead of it being signed by Presidents 'Umar al-Bashir and Museveni in June.

The agreement included a section saying that the two countries would not allow rebel movements to be active. He explained that before the ink on this agreement had dried, the Ugandan authorities had harassed members of the Sudanese diplomatic mission in Kampala.

He stressed that the Ugandan Government's allegations that there were weapons in the military attache's residence were incorrect, and that the residence was inspected in the presence of the Libyan and Tanzanian ambassadors in Kampala, and media delegations.

He emphasized that these allegations exposed the Ugandan claim. He said that Sudanese diplomacy was innocent of these claims and adhered to the diplomatic convention.

Commentary Addresses Broken Ties

EA3004173095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Apr 95

[Commentary by Al-Khayr Abdallah Mahjub]

[FBIS Translated Text] Uganda has persisted in its anti-Sudan stance to the point of breaking off diplomatic relations. Its stance on relations between the two countries signifies one thing only, and that is that Uganda now fears Sudanese transparency, which arranges matters in their proper places, one after the other. It is this fear that prompted Uganda to resort to ending the Sudanese presence there as represented by the members of the diplomatic mission. Uganda went even farther toward ending this presence by intensifying its aggressive campaigns against the Sudanese community, and representatives of Sudanese voluntary organizations there.

The transparency Uganda fears emanates from the Sudanese people's ability to expose Ugandan allegations not only to the people of Sudan but to the people of the whole world. Uganda now, apart from the fact that its authorities have become agents of foreign quarters targeting not only Sudan but the entire continent, directly supports rebels here and there. It has turned its territory into a launching pad for every form of intrusive and barbarous violence, sometimes against Sudan, and at other times against all its other neighboring states. What we are saying here is not conjecture because Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni's record confirms what we say.

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In Uganda itself, hostility toward Sudan has gone as far as breaking off diplomatic relations. This we see as an attempt to throw sand into people's eyes or burying heads in the sand to confuse the difficult internal situation the Ugandan authorities are trying to control under the guise of normalcy. Internally, Uganda is plagued by many problems exacerbated by the policies of the Ugandan president, who is striving to cling to power by engaging in many balancing acts. Accordingly, external security has taken precedence over internal anxieties in the priorities of the Ugandan authorities.

Uganda today is in a worsening state because of its president's interference in the affairs of neighboring states. It is sowing the seeds of discord here and there by providing direct and indirect assistance, and by fanning tension in all the neighboring countries. Suffice it here to refer to the suspect part played by Museveni in sparking off the worst conflict affecting the African Continent. Museveni's fingers have been monitored by observers in all the events in Rwanda, beginning in October 1990, and continuing with the armed conflict between the people of Rwanda. This led to the murder of Juvenal Habyarimana in April 1994 when the aircraft carrying Habyarimana and the Burundian president exploded.

Museveni's machinations, which started as soon as he assumed power and have continued until today, have led him into experiencing deteriorating conditions both internally and externally. He fears for his life from all, even from his friends.

Museveni, who is providing John Garang with unlimited support, fears that the Ugandan groups being used by Garang could become a means of bringing pressure to bear on himself should the bonds of friendship fail to serve the rebels, particularly when friends are parted by their tendency to remain mercenaries and paid agents. The two men are bound by ties of treachery, as reported by one of the returnees from the Sudanese rebel movement.

In conclusion, we wish to stress that the acts of the Ugandan authorities against Sudan will have no effect. We can see Ugandan society, together with the international community, condemning the actions of the Ugandan authorities, which will gain no advantage from severing relations with Sudan.

This failure will coincide with the failure of the rebels. Reports have reached us saying that Riak Machar and William Nyuon have withdrawn from the scheme to unite their factions under the leadership of agent Garang. Unifying the factions was a condition for continuing material and military support from the foreign powers. That was the same condition laid down by the foreign powers for Uganda, so Uganda went ahead and broke off diplomatic relations with Sudan.

Tunisia

'Extremist' Islamic Group Warns Foreigners To Leave

MM0105105995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 May 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Tunisian Group Urges Foreigners To Leave"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—An extremist Tunisian group has issued a new warning to westerners, urging them to leave Tunisia. The "Islamic Front in Tunisia," which is one of the "Jihad" groups, has claimed responsibility for violent operations carried out in Tunisia recently. Tunisian opposition sources have told AL-HAYAH that there is cooperation between this front and the armed groups in Algeria. The sources pointed out that members of the Tunisian Front are being trained in camps belonging to the Armed Islamic Group, the most extremist organization in Algeria.

Tunisian authorities are downplaying the importance of this armed opposition, and they deny the occurrence of violent actions in the country. It clearly seems that security forces are indeed in total control of the security situation in Tunisia.

However, a statement (dated 25 April) distributed yesterday spoke of operations carried out in Tunisia by this front, some of whose elements are believed to have broken away from the outlawed al-Nahdah movement. The statement, signed by "Abu-Ja'far," claimed responsibility for the Sundus [as transliterated] center operation on the Tunisian-Algerian border two months ago. AL-HAYAH reported this incident, which Tunisia said was the result of a traffic accident.

The statement pointed also to two operations in 'Ayn al-Darahim and al-Kaf (Tunisia denied both). The statement also pointed to the killing of a policeman in the capital, the storming of several banks, the killing of three policemen, and the abduction of a fourth on the border with Algeria. The statement reiterated the warning to foreigners not to stay in Tunisia, saying "they will have themselves to blame" if they continue to stay there.

The statement is written in the same style in which the group's first statement, in February, was written, and in bad Arabic.

Jordanian Prime Minister on 'Very Useful' Visit

JN2804173295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Jordanian] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin—Shakir has asserted that Jordan under His Majesty King Husayn is a true advocate of comprehensive peace in the region, and is making efforts toward that end.

In an interview with the Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH published today, Bin-Shakir added: We, as Arab Easterners, believe that true peace has to be comprehensive. Also, we believe that peace between any two countries is insufficient. It does not guarantee security and stability in our region.

With regard to the prospects for joint Arab action at this point in time, the prime minister said: We have always pursued cooperation with the Arab states. We must make an effort to support all moves aimed at promoting

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rapprochement and brotherhood. Whoever makes a single favorable move toward us will be met with several such moves by us.

The prime minister commended the outcome of his visit to Tunisia and the results of the meetings held by the Higher Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Committee. In reply to a question on the meetings held by this committee, the results they produced, and his visit to Tunisia, Bin-Shakir said: The visit was very useful. It has promoted the interests of the two fraternal countries. I believe that it will mark the start of dynamic joint action. It is our hope that the agreements and executive programs we have signed will usher in blanket cooperation between the two governments, and between the private sectors in both countries so that businessmen in both countries may cooperate to promote their own interests and the interests of the two peoples.

When asked about concrete results and a qualitative change in the bilateral economic ties, Bin-Shakir said: We hope that a practical change will take place. This is because the bilateral agreements signed are aimed to promote the interests of the two countries in a balanced and equitable manner. It is our hope that businessmen from both sides will work harder to contribute toward the building of a special relationship between the brothers in Jordan and Tunisia.

Bin-Shakir said that businessmen and the private sectors in both countries must contribute toward the implementation of the ambitious official agreements signed.

On the development of ties between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Tunisia and what could promote and enhance them, Bin-Shakir said: I believe that the political ties between the two countries have always been special and brotherly. But, now, we have to start a new phase of economic and trade cooperation. I am optimistic that our bilateral ties could be further enhanced shortly, particularly if the private sectors in both countries make effective contributions toward that end.

With regard to the future of peace in the region, Bin-Shakir said: We hope that peace will be entrenched, and that comprehensive peace will take root in the region. We have always sought to bring about comprehensive peace. We are unshakable advocates of comprehensive peace, and are making efforts toward that end. The basic aim of His Majesty King Husayn is to achieve comprehensive peace. This is because we, as Arab Easterners, believe that true peace has to be comprehensive. Peace between any two countries is insufficient. It does not guarantee security and stability in the region. Peace should not only involve Jordan and the Palestinian brothers. It must involve all Arab states.

The prime minister added: We believe that all problems will be addressed soon. We must take into account that the region's history is replete with wars and hostility. This state of affairs should be left behind us. The onus in this regard falls on Israel. Israel must feel the need to achieve such peace. It must make efforts to establish comprehensive peace in the region.

With regard to the prospects for joint Arab action in the aftermath of the high-level talks he has held in Tunis, al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir said: One of the basic aims of my visit to Tunisia and the talks I held there is to promote joint Arab action, upgrade inter-Arab coordination, and overcome the legacy of the Gulf war. We shall not be content until all Arab states establish special ties among themselves. We must cope with all difficulties. I believe that the state of affairs that materialized in the immediate aftermath of the Gulf war should not be allowed to remain a fact of life. We have always pursued cooperation with the Arab states. We must endeavor to support all moves aimed at promoting rapprochement and brotherhood. Whoever makes a single favorable move toward us will be met with several such steps by us in order to enhance the interests and prosperity of our peoples and nation.

For their part, members of the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the Higher Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Committee commended the fruitful results of these meetings, and the special fraternal ties binding the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the fraternal Republic of Tunisia. Minister of Industry and Trade Engineer 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib made a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, saying: The trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation agreement signed between the two fraternal countries during the higher joint committee meetings marks a turning point in the efforts to promote bilateral ties in these areas. He added: Both sides asserted that they will continue to accord preferential treatment to the products of both countries, particularly Jordanian potash and medicines and Tunisian olive oil and dates, by inviting tenders in both countries in accordance with international specifications and prices. The two sides also agreed to exchange information on the tenders to be invited with regard to these products, Abu-al-Raghib added.

With regard to the cooperation agreement signed in the area of commercial maritime transport and ports, Transportation Minister Engineer Samir Qa'war said: In accordance with the agreement signed, we will maintain and promote cooperation and coordination between Royal Jordanian and the Tunisian Airlines, particularly with regard to long journeys and routes, and the Amman-Tunis-Amman flights. He said that Tunisian aircraft will be provided the necessary maintenance at Royal Jordanian's workshops. Qa'war added that efforts to promote cooperation in the area of land transportation will be reviewed to produce a special agreement on commercial land transportation, passenger transportation, and transit transportation across the two countries' territories.

With regard to touristic cooperation between Jordan and Tunisia, Tourism and Antiquities Minister 'Abd-al-Ilah al-Khatib said: We have agreed to extend the relevant protocol, currently in force, signed between the two countries 10 years ago, which expires in November 1995.

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Kuwait

Syria's Qaddurah Meets With Amir, Other Officials

JN2904180795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait—Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, received 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, the People's Assembly speaker, and the accompanying delegation today. The meeting was attended by Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun, speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly; and Dr. Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, Syria's ambassador to Kuwait.

At the outset of the meeting, Qaddurah conveyed the greetings of President Hafiz al-Asad to his highness the amir of Kuwait, who asked him to convey his sincere greetings, appreciation, and respect to President Hafiz al-Asad. The amir of Kuwait praised the relations between Syria and Kuwait, stressing that these relations were reinforced during the October war of liberation and based on Syria's stand in support of Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion. Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah stressed the need to continue exchanging visits between the two countries to serve their joint interest. On his part, Qaddurah spoke about the depth of brotherly relations between the two fraternal peoples.

Moreover, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, today received Qaddurah and the accompanying delegation in the presence of the speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly and the Syrian ambassador to Kuwait.

During the meeting, Qaddurah conveyed the greetings of President Hafiz al-Asad to the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister who asked him to convey his sincere greetings and appreciation to President Hafiz al-Asad. Shaykh Sa'd said that the stand adopted by Syria, under the leadership of President al-Asad, in support of Kuwait had a great effect in clarifying facts, praising Syria's participation in the liberation of kuwait.

Shaykh Sa'd spoke about President Hafiz al-Asad's role in the Arab summit held in Cairo after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which effected an Arab decision to stand by Kuwait.

On his part Qaddurah spoke about the depth of relations between Syria and Kuwait and the need to continue to bolster them in all fields. He said that the Syrian People's Assembly and the Kuwaiti Parliament will contribute to reinforcing and developing these relations.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwait's first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, had received Qaddurah and the accompanying delegation in the presence of the Syrian ambassador to Kuwait and two members of the Kuwaiti [words indistinct]. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and the situation in the region.

Turkish Delegation Hopes To Expand Relations

TA2904185195 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 29 Apr 95

[Video report by Metin Gokce in Kuwait]

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of Turkish businessmen headed by Yalim Erez, chairman of the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges, are holding contacts in Kuwait a bid to expand the economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Erez and his accompanying delegation met first with ('Abd-al-Aziz al-Sagar), chairman of the Kuwaiti union of chambers of trade and industry [title as heard]. At the meeting, both sides stressed the importance of increasing the Turkish-Kuwaiti volume of trade, which has decreased in the wake of the Gulf War, as well as holding discussions on solutions to present problems.

The Turkish delegation later met with Habib Jawhar Hayat, the Kuwaiti minister of public works and housing. At the meeting, Erez said that the Turkish delegation hopes to expand bilateral economic relations in all areas through this visit. Pointing out that Turkey was affected the most after Kuwait by the Gulf War, Erez said that expanding the economic relations between the countries will also contribute to securing peace and stability in the region.

Hayat, in turn, expressed his pleasure at the Turkish delegation's visit, briefing them on the housing projects on the country's agenda. Explaining that Kuwait will open its $4.5 billion housing and infrastructure project to international bids soon, Hayat added that it will give them pleasure to see Turkish firms working on these projects.

Erez and the accompanying delegation later met with Ali Hilal al- Mutayri, the Kuwaiti commerce and industry minister. At the meeting, al-Mutayri said that Turkish-Kuwaiti trade, which had fallen to $5 million in the wake of the Gulf War, registered a positive increase and reached $100 million in spite of the difficult transportation conditions. Erez, in turn, said that Turkish and Kuwaiti businessmen share areas where they can undertake common investments in addition to expanding the volume of trade. Briefing the Kuwaiti officials on the privatization projects in Turkey, Erez called on the Kuwaiti business and financial circles to invest in these projects.

The Turkish ambassador in Kuwait was also present at these meetings. Meanwhile, Turkish businessmen from various sectors are holding meetings with their Kuwait counterparts.

Economic Protocol Signed

TA3004151095 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 30 Apr 95

[Report by Metin Gokce in Kuwait]

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[FBIS Translated Text] A cooperation protocol has been signed in Kuwait between the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges [TOBB] and the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The protocol, which aims at developing the economic and commercial relations between the two countries, was signed by TOBB chairman Yalim Erez, and by ('Abd-al-Aziz al-Sagar), chairman of the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Yalim Erez said that the relations between the two countries were never undermined because of the very strong religious, historical, and cultural ties between them. He pointed out that in the development of relations between the countries, businessmen have a greater role to play than governments. He stressed that the Governments of Turkey and Kuwait have done everything they can and that the whole responsibility now lies with businessmen.

Erez said that it was pleasing to see that mutual economic relations have reverted back to what they were before the war. He said, however, that considering the existing potential, this is not enough.

Erez said that as a major country in the region, Turkey attaches great important to the protection of stability and peace. Only in such conditions can economic relations develop, he said. Erez went on to say that certain factors created by the postwar conditions have prevented the development of bilateral relations. He stressed that these obstacles can be removed by the efforts of the two sides.

(Al-Sagar) said, in turn, that Turkey ranks 15th on the list of countries with which Kuwait trades the most. He stressed that with Turkey's industrial and tourism potential, the relations should develop further. He said that Turkish export goods must be promoted in Kuwait.

The protocol envisages the speedy identification and elimination of the factors that prevent the development of mutual trade.

Oman

Qabus on GCC Ties With Israel, Political Extremism

JN2904163895 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has asserted that the Sultanate's success in bringing about a positive change in the country's political and social climate conducive to citizen participation in policymaking is to be attributed to the espousal of the positive components of modern communities while simultaneously maintaining the traditions and heritage of the Omani society through a strong relationship between the leadership and citizens.

In an interview given to the U.S. periodical MIDDLE EAST POLICY, his majesty, may God protect him, added: Since the start of the development endeavor in the country, I have been obsessed with creating a balance between these two elements. There were areas requiring speedy action. Meanwhile, there was need for political and social change; and this required gradual and careful efforts. This has been manifested in the experiment of developing the Consultative Council and increasing the Council membership. I can safely say now that we have placed our country on the right track that will lead us to further political and social development.

His majesty the sultan went on to say: The involvement of women in the Consultative Council's membership was not arbitrary. For, since the start of the blessed renaissance endeavor, we have encouraged women to play their roles in full in the community.

When asked about declining oil prices and the impact of this on local development programs, his majesty the sultan said: It is true that declining oil prices have adversely affected local development programs. Nonetheless, this fortunately happened when the construction of the country's infrastructure was completed. Moreover, a long time ago, we began to examine the creation of alternative sources of revenue. We have largely managed to do so. Now, only 34 percent of national revenues comes from the oil sector.

With regard to the Omanization policy, his majesty the sultan expressed satisfaction with what has been accomplished in this regard. He added that the careful way in which this policy has been implemented has spared us many problems related to declining performance rates.

On water resources and their management, his majesty the sultan said: The increase in development programs makes it necessary that we control water resources and build many dams. At present, we are satisfied with the status of these resources. However, we undoubtedly have always to demonstrate vigilance so that our water consumption does not adversely affect our revenues.

As for the situation in the Middle East and the relationship between the Palestinians and Israelis, his majesty the sultan said: Regardless of the obstacles that have plagued the Middle East peace process, some positive gains conducive to a peaceful settlement have been made.

His majesty the sultan expressed optimism that good faith and understanding could lead to a future honorable solution acceptable to all concerned parties. His majesty, may God protect him, stressed that the relationship between the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] members and Israel is naturally contingent upon the extent of the positive development in the relationship between Israel and the Palestinians, and also upon the attainment of solutions to a host of other relevant problems.

In reply to a question on political extremism, his majesty the sultan said: All types of extremism must be stemmed in the most forceful and resolute manner. All must

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comply with the clear religious rules, and shun misrepresentation of facts. All must honor these rules, which have been tested, and upon which we have been acting. This will inevitably lead us to the realm of humanity, awareness, and progress.

Saudi Arabia

Saudis Pull Koranic Placard From Iranian Hajj HQ

LD0105095495 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mecca, May 1, IRNA—Saudi commandos Monday [1 May] pulled down a placard which was adorned with verses from the Holy Quran, from be'the (headquarters of head of the Iranian pilgrims) here.

Officials at the headquarters said that taking down such a placard bearing divine verses was a sacrilege to the Holy Quran.

About 80 Saudi commandos directly took part in the operation while 2,000 military forces equipped with clubs were stationed in front of the headquarters at al-Mu'abidah Square. The improper measure taken by the Saudis followed by cordoning off the al-Mu'abidah area caused traffic jam in nearby streets and disturbed public order, astounding foreign pilgrims who were witness to irrational move of the Saudi police. Saudi authorities never before objected to the placard fixed on the building since a long time ago.

United Arab Emirates

Minister Meets PLO's 'Abbas, Condemns Land Seizure

JN2904180395 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, April 29 (GNA)—The United Arab Emirates today blasted Israel for its plans to seize more Arab land to settle Jews.

UAE [United Arab Emirates] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan was commenting on Israel's decision to [confiscate] large Arab areas in occupied east Jerusalem to build homes for Jewish settlers.

"Such practices do not only jeopardise the whole peace process, but undermine Israel's credibility and commitment to the autonomy agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation," Shaykh Hamdan said after meeting PLO Executive Committee member Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas].

"While it condemns Israel's confiscation of Palestinian land under unacceptable excuses, the UAE urges the international community, mainly the sponsors of the peace process, to take urgent action to put an end to the Israeli violations which clearly contravene with the peace agreement in order to ensure the continuation of the peace process and establish security and stability in the Middle East."

Abu-Mazin, known as Mahmud 'Abbas, said he discussed such an issue with Shaykh Hamdan as well as current negotiations on Israeli redeployment, elections and inter-Palestinian dialogue.

He said he expressed gratitude for the UAE's continuous support to Palestinians under the leadership of UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

"Shaykh Hamdan was keen to know about those developments which violate the Oslo accord," he said.

Yemen

Salih Chairs Cabinet 'Emergency' Economic Session

JN3004192795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, today chaired at the Presidential Palace an emergency Cabinet session. Vice President 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi attended.

The conferees discussed issues and topics on the meeting's agenda which relate to the economic conditions and the progress of the economic, financial, and administrative reform program, as well as the government's policy in dealing with supply and monetary issues.

The brother president opened the meeting by noting the importance of the issues and topics that must be discussed in a spirit of national responsibility in this extraordinary meeting, which will be devoted to discussing economic conditions and the means to enhance the local currency. Moreover, he said, the meeting will discuss a government report on the progress made in implementing its economic, financial, and administrative reform program in accordance with the timetables set to implement that program, whether with respect to addressing the economic, financial, and supply conditions; the mechanisms to distribute goods; the administrative reform; and the implementation of the recommendation to close cultural, information, military, health, and commercial attache offices abroad; and other measures and mechanisms stipulated in the program. The president stressed the need to provide the necessary requirements and to abide by the mechanisms that can guarantee the success of the reformist measures in the light of the available resources.

The brother president stressed the need for the government to pursue a strict financial austerity policy to curtail expenditure, increase revenues, and curb budget deficit. He also urged the government to follow a sound monetary policy and take effective measures to

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strengthen confidence in, and enhance the local currency and stop the drop of its exchange rate against the other foreign currencies.

He said: There has to be a responsible, serious pause before the entire economic conditions and the citizens' living conditions. We must decisively treat the faults in all economic, administrative, financial, and supply fields. There must also be a continuous assessment of the progress of the execution of plans. Moreover, we must choose honorable individuals to assume responsibility in the state's administrative machine regardless of their political affiliation and we must apply the principle of recognition and punishment without exception. We must also encourage investment, give investors the necessary facilities, and overcome any difficulties facing them. Additionally, we must deal with the issues of investment with an open mind and new attitude, which surmounts the past mistakes and administrative bureaucracy, and which is based on a new reality and serious desire to bring about reform and advance the national economy to new horizons that can serve the objectives of development and progress in our country.

The brother president said: There are great tasks and they need all of your efforts. You in the Cabinet have a joint responsibility and no one can avoid his responsibility.

He stressed the need for practical, tangible, and courageous measures to strengthen confidence in the government and its reformist measures.

The meeting is still in progress.

Further on 'Emergency' Session

JN0105075395 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, chaired an emergency cabinet session at the Presidential Palace yesterday. Vice President 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi attended.

The conferees discussed issues and topics related to the economic conditions and progress of the economic, financial, and administrative reform program, as well as the government's policy in the development and monetary fields. They also discussed many national as well as regional, Arab, and international developments of interest to our country. [passage omitted]

In his speech, the brother president dealt with many issues and developments in the national, regional, and international arenas. He stressed our country's eagerness to reinforce its relations and develop areas of cooperation with all brothers and friends on the basis of promoting common interests, reciprocal benefits, and fruitful cooperation in all fields, and on the basis of supporting all efforts aimed at reinforcing security, stability, and peace in the region.

After a detailed a discussion of the agenda topics, and within the framework of a practical translation of the economic, financial, and administrative reform program, the conferees decided:

1. To take effective measures to reinforce the value of the national currency against foreign currencies, to enhance confidence in our country's banking system, and to establish an Islamic bank after finalizing legal measures and controls for the operation of this bank in a way that encourages citizens' savings.

2. To allow commercial banks operating in our country to buy, sell, and deposit foreign currencies at the prevailing exchange rates according to the Yemeni Central Bank's policy in this regard.

3. To approve an appropriate mechanism to distribute subsidized goods and make them available to citizens at the prices decided by the Ministry of Supply and Trade.

4. To activate the privatization committees formed by the cabinet and invite tenders for the government's industrial and agricultural projects, which will be privatized in preparation for sale by auction.

5. To expedite the finalization of a public real estate law that determines the way public real estate can be sold or leased for residential, investment, and other purposes; that protects public real estate from theft or misappropriation; and that yields positive returns in line with the new economic trends.

6. To take the necessary measures to exploit the fish resources in our country in a way that yields revenues to reinforce the national economy. Practical and legal measures will be taken to protect the fish resources against misappropriation.

7. To take the necessary measures to encourage national, Arab, and foreign investment in our country, and provide greater facilities to investors.

The conferees stressed the importance of strict abidance by the general state budget for 1995 in a manner that will achieve its economic objectives, considering it a cornerstone for the establishment of a sound financial establishment, and in a manner that would ensure the success of the economic and financial reform process and practically translate the aims of development in our country.

Salih Chairs Meeting, Discusses Armed Forces

JN3004191195 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, today chaired a meeting at the Defense Ministry in the presence of Vice President Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi. The meeting dealt with many issues pertaining to the improvement of our Armed Forces, as well as these

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forces' missions and duties, as part of the overall reform program and the reinforcement of our country's defense capability.

The brother president spoke at the meeting, referring to the circumstances, challenges, and burdens that our country has faced as a result of the war ignited by the treasonous secessionists. Therefore, he said, all efforts should be mobilized to overcome these challenges and to resume reconstruction efforts.

The president referred to the great role played by the Armed Forces in promoting the causes of the homeland and the people and in being an example of sacrifice for the sake of the homeland. He also praised the Armed Forces for improving their conditions as part of an actual translation of the economic, financial, and administrative reform program. He said that the Armed Forces are undergoing qualitative, distinguished construction and modernization based on national and scientific foundations in order to promote the country's defense capability.

He pointed out that efforts to develop the Armed Forces will positively contribute to attempts to improve their conditions and those of their personnel in terms of training and combat alertness.

The meeting also discussed several issues on its agenda and made appropriate decisions to reconstruct and modernize our Armed Forces.

President Receives German Parliamentary Delegation

JN3004201695 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, and brother Major General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, vice president, today received a German parliamentary delegation led by Dr. (Erich Edel), currently visiting our country. The talks, during the meeting, dealt with many issues related to bilateral relations and ways of joint cooperation between our country and Germany. The talks also dealt with international issues and developments of mutual interest.

The president expressed satisfaction with the growing development in Yemeni-German relations and joint cooperation in the interest of the two friendly peoples. The president added that relations between our country and Germany are historic, noting some identical aspects of both people's experiments in terms of ending separation and achieving unity. President Salih expressed his appreciation for Germany's support of our country's development and for Germany's assistance which he described as fair and which enjoy our people's respect and gratitude. The president reaffirmed our country's adherence to the democratic, pluralistic trend as our basic option to build the new Yemeni state. He also reaffirmed our country's support for the efforts aimed at reinforcing security, stability, and peace in the region and the world. The president noted that the option of peaceful dialogue is the best way to resolve all current issues and problems in the world.

The head of the German parliamentary delegation expressed his appreciation for the hospitality and warm friendly feelings he and his accompanying delegation were accorded. He asserted the German people's eagerness to develop their relations with the Yemeni people and Germany's support for the march of development and the democratic experiment in Yemen.

The meeting was attended by the German ambassador in Sanaa.

Al-Ahmar, al-Iryani Receive German Delegation

JN3004141795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, today received a German parliamentary delegation led by Dr. (Erich Edel), head of the Budget Committee at the German Parliament, currently visiting our country.

At the outset of the meeting, brother al-Ahmar welcomed the head of the German delegation and his team, recalling the positive positions of the German Government and Parliament toward our people and country. He said that his visit to Germany in March has positively affected the progress of relations between both friendly peoples and parliaments.

For his part, the head of the German parliamentary delegation said his visit to our country is part of the coordination between our two friendly countries and is aimed to promote bilateral relations in the service of the common interests of both friendly countries and peoples. The meeting was attended by some brother members of the House of Representatives.

Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this morning received the German parliamentary delegation. During the meeting, they discussed Yemeni-German relations and issues of mutual interest.

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Ministry Warns Arabs Against Meeting Albright

JN0105113995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 1 May (INA)—An official source at the Ministry of Culture and Information today warned Arab leaders and officials against meeting with Madeleine Albright, U.S. delegate to the United Nations, who will begin a tour of some Arab states tomorrow.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, the source added that Albright need to be tested by a psychiatrist. She, the source noted, must be subjected to constant medical monitoring, because she wallows in the Iraqis' suffering and makes the sign of victory—the V-sign—every time the Security Council extends the sanctions clamped on the children and sick in Iraq.

The official source at the Ministry of Culture and Information indicated that when it felt that the revocation of the Iraqi oil embargo had become imminent, the U.S. Administration submitted Resolution 986 to the Security Council. This resolution is ostensibly designed to achieve humanitarian purposes. Nonetheless, it is actually intended to finance the bankrupt coffers of the United Nations, whose bankruptcy has been caused by the U.S. Administration, which has, for several years, refused to settle its debts to the world body, which total $800 million.

Moreover, Resolution 986 aims to finance the U.S.-backed agent Kurdish groups, particularly since President Clinton was compelled to reduce the allocations former President Bush earmarked for them from $40 million to $20 million in 1993, and then to $15 million this year.

The official source wondered: If it is really worried about the humanitarian situation in Iraq, why has the U.S. Administration failed to release the frozen Iraqi assets, which total $4 billion?

The official source added: Iraq has implemented all the provisions enshrined in Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687; and this requires the immediate revocation of the oil embargo. Nonetheless, this is embarrassing to the U.S. Administration, which does not want to see Iraq acting in compliance with the provisions enshrined in Resolution 687 and other relevant resolutions.

The official source at the Ministry of Culture and Information urged Arab leaders and officials not to be duped by U.S. gimmicks, and to retort strongly and objectively to Madeleine Albright's argument so that she may appear as she really is; that is, as a spiteful person plagued by malice.

Al-Sahhaf Reacts to Musa Statement on Sanctions

JN2904142095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Apr (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has asserted that the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 is the appropriate prelude to lifting the Iraq sanctions, and consequently alleviating the suffering of its people.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency commenting on the statement Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa made in Doha yesterday, Friday, the foreign minister added that Iraq has fulfilled all the basic commitments enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions, particularly those related to the provisions contained in Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. Consequently, the minister argued, what is currently required is a concerted effort to demand that the UNSC comply with the aforesaid paragraph, which provides for lifting the ban on Iraqi oil exports and other Iraqi products.

The foreign minister added: In his statement, 'Amr Musa chose not to note the tendencious political motives behind the passage of Resolution 986. Similarly, he chose not to mention the conditions and constraints embodied in the provisions of this resolution, which undermine Iraq's sovereignty, compromise its territorial integrity, and interfere in its domestic affairs.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf stated that the Egyptian foreign minister is well aware that Iraq has honored all the basic commitments enshrined in the relevant UNSC resolutions, particularly Resolution 687, and that the UNSC has, for some time, been under pressure to honor its commitments toward Iraq.

Al-Sahhaf indicated that 'Amr Musa himself had previously asserted that the recognition of Kuwait by Iraq was the remaining basic step to be taken, and that once Iraq took this step, Arab and international efforts ought to be made to revoke the sanctions. Besides, al-Sahhaf contended, 'Amr Musa is also well aware that Iraq has met all the requirements stipulated in Section C of Resolution 687, which concerns banned weapons. The foreign minister added that the efforts to force new conditions must be halted, because this reflects excessive pressure meant to harm Iraq and the Arab states' interests.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf stressed that Resolution 986 includes conditions and provisions that jeopardize Iraq's sovereignty and national unity, reflect interference in its domestic affairs, shackle its future prospects and free will, and circumvent the sincere efforts to revoke the Iraqi oil embargo.

Concluding his statement, the foreign minister said: It is our hope that the Egyptian foreign minister will show understanding of Iraq's fair position, and also of its inalienable right to have the unfair sanctions lifted. He added that the first major prelude to the attainment of this lies in the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. He went on to say that the passage of Resolution 986 was a U.S. attempt to obstruct the implementation of Paragraph 22, particularly since it was widely known that there had been a joint French-Russian draft resolution supported by the PRC that

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called for revoking the Iraqi oil embargo and consequently mitigating the Iraqi people's suffering. We hope, the minister maintained, that the Egyptian foreign minister will be among those demanding an honest and fair implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

Daily Attacks Statement

JN0105100495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0729 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 1 May (INA)—An Iraqi newspaper has stated that it is meaningless for any Arab official to profess sympathy with us and declare an understanding of our suffering under the unfair sanctions while at the same time reiterating the U.S. attitude toward the Iraq sanctions.

In an article published today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH adds: The statement made in Doha by the Egyptian foreign minister that the world is sympathetic toward the hardship experienced by the Iraqi people is unimportant as long as 'Amr Musa believes that "given Baghdad's rejection of UN Security Council Resolution 986, the revocation of the Iraq sanctions is contingent upon Iraqi officials."

The paper asserts that the Egyptian foreign minister is well aware that the continuation of the Iraq sanctions and the suffering of the Iraqi people reflects the wishes of the United States. Likewise, 'Amr Musa, the paper contends, is well aware that Resolution 986 is American from A to Z, and that it aimed to circumvent the sincere international efforts to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

The paper notes the relationship between the Egyptian regime and the U.S. Administration, and the role this regime has taken upon itself to play on the Arab scene. All this, the paper argues, does not allow 'Amr Musa to go any further than the demonstration of verbal sympathy with the Iraqi people.

The paper adds: If the Egyptian foreign minister does not know why Iraq has rejected Resolution 986, it is pointless to tell him that this U.S.-styled resolution contains conditions and constraints that violate Iraq's sovereignty, compromise its territorial integrity and the unity of its people, and authorizes interference in its domestic affairs. Worse still, this resolution is aimed at prolonging the sanctions on Iraq.

The paper stresses that any Arab official who professes to be sympathetic with the Iraqi people's ordeal, and to want to see their suffering mitigated should carefully and painstakingly reread the provisions enshrined in Resolution 986 so that he may see for himself the humiliating and harmful conditions and constraints enshrined in this U.S.-styled resolution.

The paper adds: It is irrelevant and even harmful for such officials to make statements in this regard out of courtesy under some transient circumstances, or to deflect "pan-Arab" blame.

The paper goes on to say: What is required for a proper Arab stand toward the Iraqi sanctions is a concerted Arab and international effort demanding that the UN Security Council implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, particularly since Iraq has honored all the basic commitments enshrined in the relevant UN resolutions.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: Expressing sympathy with the people of Iraq is useless; it cannot mitigate their ordeal. By contrast, a responsible and courageous pan-Arab stand would require the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, for this implementation would end the suffering of the Iraqi people. All that has been said is relevant only if the suffering of the Iraqi people is really of any concern to Arab officials.

Group Claims 'Udayy Injured in Assassination Attempt

LD0105094895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0808 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tehran, 1 May—An Iraqi opposition group announced today that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, son of the president of the Iraqi regime and chief of the special security apparatus [title as given] escaped two assassination attempts in Baghdad recently carried out by elements of the group and sustained wounds in the arm and leg.

A statement issued by the mojahedin of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, a copy of which has been received by KUNA, said that an armed group ambushed a motorcade of 'Udayy Husayn who was accompanied by a 17-strong team of bodyguards near his farm in al-Jadiriyah [Baghdad suburb] and opened fire, wounding him and killing one of his bodyguards. The statement said that the group planned and carried out two previous operations last March and at the beginning of April.

The statement pointed out that clashes took place between the attackers and Udayy's bodyguards, obliging the attackers to retreat. 'Udayy was attending a meeting of the Olympic Committee at al-Mansur hotel in the Iraqi capital. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Demands Withdrawal of Turkish Troops

JN2904194595 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman made a statement to the Iraqi News Agency today commenting on a statement issued by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 25 April 1995 on the withdrawal of five brigades of the invading Turkish troops totaling 20,000 soldiers, saying: We have followed the issue pertaining to the withdrawal of the invading Turkish troops from northern Iraq, particularly since this invasion constitutes a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We would like to

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note that the Turkish Government had earlier declared its intention to withdraw its invading troops from Iraqi territory. Nonetheless, it has failed to do so. It has continued its military operations on this territory.

While reiterating Iraq's position, which rejects the invasion, and demanding the complete and immediate withdrawal of Turkish troops, we call upon Turkey to quickly complete the withdrawal of Turkish troops. Such withdrawal should not be partial or tactical. We reject the parts of the statement that maintained that a portion of the invading Turkish troops will remain on Iraqi territory until they accomplish their so-called planned tasks.

PUK Willing To Cooperate With Turkey on Security

NC3004195695 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Turkish Government has stressed that the Saddam's regime must implement all the UN resolutions, including Resolution 688, which bans the regime from persecuting the Iraqi people.

This came during a meeting recently held in Irbil between Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], and a delegation representing the Turkish Foreign Ministry.

Meanwhile, a PUK spokesman has urged the Turkish Government to withdraw its troops from northern Iraq. The spokesman expressed the PUK's willingness to cooperate with Ankara in defending the joint Iraqi-Turkish borders.

Kurds: Turks Perform Air Raids on Northern Villages

NC0105050095 Paris AFP in English 1521 GMT 30 Apr 95

[Report by Tolle Aram]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dahuk, Iraq, April 30 (AFP)—Turkish warplanes raided nine villages in northern Iraq over the weekend, injuring one woman and three children, Kurdish officials said Sunday [30 April].

"We got reports from villagers that Turkish troops had air raided nine villages on Friday and Saturday, destroying a lot of houses and injuring four civilians," said Sherif Oray of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), an Iraqi Kurd group.

The raids took place around Amadiyah, a small town 30 kilometres (19 miles) south of the Iraq-Turkey border, Oray said.

An estimated 10,000 Turkish troops hunting Turkish Kurd separatists moved to a region northeast of Amadiyah following the withdrawal of the bulk of Ankara's incursion force from northern Iraq last week.

Iraqi Kurds from villages near Amadiyah said the casualty figures from the air raids were low because only two of the nine targeted villages were inhabited.

Villagers from the other seven had already fled their homes 10 days ago because of fear of attacks from the Turkish army, which launched an offensive on March 20 to destroy bases used by the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

"The KDP committee in our village got a cable from (KDP leader) Mas'ud Barzani with the promise that Turkish planes would not attack our village," said Remzi Ahmad, explaining why he had stayed in his village, Tel.

Ahmad said he walked for five hours after the raids to take a seriously injured woman from Tel on horse-back to a main road, so she could be transported to hospital in the border town of Dahuk 100 kilometres (62 miles) to the west.

The three injured children were taken to a clinic near Tel.

A total of 2,000 Iraqi Kurds had fled the Amadiyah region before Friday's raids. Villagers displaced by the bombardment are hiding in nearby caves.

They said the Turks carried out the raids because they believed there were PKK bases nearby—though villagers insist they do not allow PKK rebels to circulate in their area.

Nevertheless the KDP, which controls the border region in northern Iraq, acknowledges that it is difficult to impose order on the smuggler-infested Amadiyah region,

More than 100 of its villages were never reconstructed after attacks by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn before 1991, Oray said. "That is why this area is difficult to control comprehensively."

Northern Iraq has been under Kurdish control in defiance of Baghdad since an uprising in the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War.

Ankara has denied harming Iraqi Kurd civilians during its "Operation Steel," which initially involved 30,000 troops backed by planes and tanks, though inhabitants have repeatedly complained about shelling and looting.

Major Radio Jamming Station Reportedly Destroyed

JN3004182995 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 27 Apr 95 pp 1, 23

["Exclusive" report by Karim 'Abdallah in Iraq's Kurdistan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The armed national resistance movement has attacked a radio jamming station set up by the Baghdad regime in al-Humaydiyah area in the Khan Bani Sa'd city to jam any voice coming from outside Baghdad aimed to expose the regime of tyrant Saddam. The attack came within the

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framework of the escalating resistance against the vital symbols of the ruling regime in Baghdad.

Police officials in Khan Bani Sa'd said that the attack resulted in the killing of a worker and the destruction of the jamming equipment, power generators, and the tower of this station, which is considered to be one of the most important jamming stations.

Following the attack, an official source at the Iraqi regime's Radio and Television Department said that this important radio jamming station was built in February this year under the supervision of Serbian experts, who were brought into the country by the regime's Culture and Information Ministry.

It is noteworthy that the Iraqi regime has 14 radio jamming stations spread throughout al-Rashidiyah, Salman Pak, and Abu-Gharib in Baghdad, and in the cities of Mosul, al-Hillah, al-Rutbah, Nuqrat al-Salman, al-Najaf, al-Basrah, al-Zubayr, al-'Amarah, al-Samawah, Karkuk, and Jalula'. These stations are built to jam the Iraqi opposition radio stations and the Arab and foreign stations which the Iraqi people listen to after they have lost confidence in the media affiliated with the ruling regime in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

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Rabin Defends Land Expropriation in Cabinet Meeting

TA3004110495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At the weekly cabinet session, the Meretz ministers protested against the government's plan to expropriate 125 acres of mostly Arab-owned land in East Jerusalem for Jewish building projects. Prime Minister Rabin said some of the land to be expropriated is Jewish-owned. He also promised an early discussion of housing construction for Arab residents. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] In reply to a question from one of the Meretz ministers, Prime Minister Rabin said he personally approved the expropriations in accordance with the government policy of developing united Jerusalem. The cabinet secretary, Shmu'el Holander, told us the land to be confiscated belongs to Jews as well as Arabs.

[Holander] We are talking about territorial parts that are annexed or adjacent to the neighborhoods of Gilo and Ramot, and the expropriation is not only from Arabs but from Jews as well.

[Katzenell] Yosi Sarid, one of the Meretz ministers, said he is satisfied with the compromise offered by the prime minister: an early meeting of the planning commission to build housing for Arab residents. But, Sarid said, at this stage in the peace process, the whole affair ought to have been handled in a different way.

[Sarid] We are against confiscation of land at the present time because we share the government's opinion that Jerusalem should be the capital of Israel, united under Israeli sovereignty, but confiscation at the present time does not help our claim for our sovereignty in Jerusalem. This is the point, but the conclusion is that in the very near future, in two weeks, the overall plan of building for Arab inhabitants of Eastern Jerusalem will be put on the table of the government. We will discuss it very carefully, and let us hope that after 25 or 27 years, the Arab inhabitants of Jerusalem will have their share in the building in the eastern part of the city.

[Katzenell] Yosi Sarid and the other Meretz ministers also voiced concern about the death of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist suspect under interrogation by the General Security Service [GSS]. However, Sarid said he appreciates the gravity of the threat posed by Hamas and the urgency of the investigations. He rejected the concept of torture or what has been described as extraordinary physical pressure.

[Sarid] No, there are no extraordinary measures of pressures. This extraordinary measure has not been applied in this particular investigation, and we should know all the details. The investigations of the Shin Bet at the present moment are very, very crucial, but at the same time, a case of somebody dying in the process of investigation is totally unbearable and totally unacceptable.

[Katzenell] By contrast, YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] Energy Minister Gonen Segev accused the Meretz ministers of conducting a witch-hunt against the General Security Service. In Segev's view, this was unjustified and unfair and could cause serious harm to the work of the GSS which, he says, was vital. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 30 April adds that "the cabinet was told that 100 million shekels in tax money owed to the Palestinian Authority under the Paris agreement will soon be handed over to it, after the Knesset passes the legislation on the matter. The vote will take place when the Knesset reconvenes in two weeks."]

Committee Approves Apartments in North Jerusalem

TA3004184495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Apr 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Jerusalem Municipality's Planning and Construction Committee today approved the construction of a Jewish neighborhood on expropriated land in Har Homa. In the first phase, 2,500 of the planned 7,000 apartments will be built on 1,800 square meters. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 30 April carries a similar report which notes that the Har Homa land "was expropriated about five years ago."]

The mayor of Jerusalem said tonight that the Jerusalem Municipality views the accelerated construction of Har Homa as a vital move that will solve the city's housing shortage. He added that the City Hall is in favor of construction for Arabs as well and believes the Government of Israel should do everything to promote construction plans for the Arab population of Jerusalem.

Partial Strike in Territories; Curfew Issued

TA0105081495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A partial commercial strike is observed in the territories today in reaction to Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] call for a full strike to protest land expropriation in south Jerusalem. The strike is particularly being observed in Ramallah and al-Birah and in several places in East Jerusalem.

Early this morning, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] clamped a curfew on the Nabulus casbah, where it is conducting a house-to-house search for three Fatah men suspected of murdering collaborators and kidnapping Arab residents to Jericho.

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Shahal on Mubarak Protest Over Land Confiscation

TA0105105895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal returned a short time ago from Cairo, where he participated in the UN Congress on Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Criminals. Shahal says the establishment of a Mediterranean antiterror training center may be established. Egypt, Algeria, and Israel support the plan, while Syria and Iran oppose it.

Minister Shahal met with President Mubarak, who presented him with Egypt's firm protest against the land confiscation in East Jerusalem.

[Begin Shahal recording] It was a lengthy, almost one-hour meeting. Obviously, this issue was raised. Frankly, I found it somewhat difficult to divert Mubarak from it because his tone was not one of admonishment but of a friend. He said he is trying to help. The world is opening up to us, he said, and he fails to understand us, especially as we should be interested in offering the Palestinian regime some sort of support in view of the difficulties it is encountering in dealing with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, and all the other parties who oppose the peace process. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 1 May adds: "Minister Shahal said he will relay Egypt's position on the issue of land confiscation to the prime minister."]

Rabin Interviewed on Evacuation, Peace Process

TA2904133995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 29 Apr 95

["Special Independence Day interview" with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Yoram Ronen, Shlomo Raz, and Hayim Hecht in Rabin's Defense Ministry office in Tel Aviv on 28 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Ronen] Last week, Sir, skepticism was again voiced regarding the bill on the direct election of the prime minister. In your party, Yosi Beilin, Moshe Shahal, and Shim'on Shetrit say there is a need to reconsider or perhaps even revoke the bill that was ratified by the previous Knesset.

[Raz] And first in opposition is Shim'on Peres.

[Rabin] I would not want to confront personal opinions. At the time, Labor made a decision. We took action, led the move—primarily, current Justice Minister David Liba'i—to change the bill. We presented this during our election campaign. The law has been passed, and I believe Labor would be making a grave mistake in terms of its public relations. Recently, we have detected, even through polls, the fact that the people support the bill. Labor would be making a grave mistake by merely raising the issue because it is widely accepted by the public. The public wants it. It wants to take part in electing the prime minister, and does not want to leave it to various coalition deals, so common and quite disgusting, which we have encountered whenever a government has been formed in Israel.

[Ronen] Mr. Prime Minister, polls in recent months show that Binyamin Netanyahu has an edge over you as candidate for premiership and that Likud is leading Labor. We still have some 18 months to the elections, but are you not worried by the polls?

[Rabin] I do not ignore the polls. I believe the primary test, certainly before the elections, would be presenting the public with the promises we made before the elections. I do not doubt that the polls represent certain moods. At the same time, I and my colleagues in the cabinet are primarily guided by the need to implement the things we believe in—whether it is the area of peace and providing security, as far as this can be done, or in changing the order of national priorities on domestic matters in this country.

[Hecht] Have you changed your opinion of Netanyahu as a political rival in view of the polls' results? You said last year that you are pleased that Netanyahu is leading the Likud.

[Rabin] I have not changed my mind. In any event, the Likud elects its candidates regardless of what I think. I am proud of this government, that I have the honor to head, for its great achievements. It may be that parts of the public still lack sufficient perspective to appreciate the changes it made.

[Raz] Are you pleased with the ministers' performance? I remember asking you this in the past, and you said they were new ministers with very little experience. They have been in office for nearly three years now, and there still is talk about malfunctions.

[Rabin] First, I am pleased—to one degree or another—with every minister. Otherwise, had I not been happy with them, I could have looked for alternatives. I have confidence in the ministers. Every acting minister must have the prime minister's confidence, which allows him to function properly.

[Ronen] So the claims by some ministers that you disregard them are baseless?

[Rabin] It is not true. I disregard no one. I may disagree with them during discussions, just as any minister may express positions which do not exactly correspond with mine.

[Ronen] I would like to address an issue that came up at the cabinet session last Wednesday [26 April]. In what some say was a slip of the tongue on your part, you said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is preparing to evacuate basic training camps in the West Bank, in Judaea, and Samaria. You are not known for accidental slips, but this issue made some headlines. Many,

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including Foreign Minister Peres, view this as the first stage of the IDF redeployment and pullout from the city centers in Judaea and Samaria.

[Rabin] I asked the IDF to draw up a deployment plan in the event that we attain an agreement with the Palestinian Authority [PA] on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles in Judaea and Samaria as well. This includes, and I approved this, the evacuation of basic training camps which train new recruits for the professional level IDF Rifleman No. 2. I saw it, primarily, as pulling out new recruits from the territories, with the security of these soldiers in mind. They are not soldiers you can assign to security tasks befitting the troops currently stationed there. At best, they could serve as guards in army camps or settlements. The camps will not be evacuated, but will host headquarters or forces without headquarters. What is the purpose of having new recruits or people who come to visit them on Saturdays travelling from Bet El or the Dotan Camp and back again? I wish to protect soldiers who do not play a part in the government's duty to provide the residents of Judaea and Samaria and those who travel on the roads there for work with the security they deserve.

[Hecht] The question, in fact, is when will the redeployment start in accordance with the agreements signed with the PLO.

[Rabin] Preparations are being made. This affair of moving the basic training camps is a long process. It will not start tomorrow. We have to first build additions to the bases inside Israeli territory....

[Ronen, interrupting] And find 800 million shekels....

[Rabin, continues] ...and build bypass roads and an infrastructure that would allow the IDF to carry out its tasks in the best possible way, if and when we reach an agreement with the PA. This is a long process and it will take time. Some things, such as bypass roads, are more urgent; some things are more basic, such as evacuating these bases so that they can be used by other forces. No camp will be deserted.

[Raz] You say, Sir, that this is a long process. Will it end within the next 18 months, that is, before the elections?

[Ronen] According to Peres, it should end by 1 July.

[Rabin] We decided to intend to end the negotiations and reach agreement by 1 July, and to implement it later. The main obstacle here is terror, that is, the extremist Islamic terror perpetrated by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, which act against the agreement. In addition to making extreme religious and political sermons and statements, they murder Israelis in the hope that it will kill the peace process. There is no terror without a political goal. Even Hizballah in Lebanon, though it operates against us, has a political ideology aiming at establishing a fundamentalist Muslim Lebanese state, based on the Khomeyni model.

[Ronen] Commander of Central Command Ilan Biran has stated that the IDF will not leave any West Bank town as long as there is terror. Do you agree?

[Rabin] The commander has the right to say what he thinks. What we will do or not do and how we will implement the agreement is for the government to decide, not for the commander of the Central Command. Frankly speaking, we know that fighting the Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror is fundamentally different from anything we have encountered up until April 1993, when the first suicide attack took place. Since 1 January 1994, 105 Israelis have been killed, murdered; 67 of them in suicide attacks. Some two-thirds of all the Israeli fatalities were murdered in suicide attacks. Allow me to add: The cruel and loathsome attacks in Hadera, 'Afula, and Tel Aviv were prepared in, perpetrated from, and performed by residents of Judaea and Samaria—which is under our rule. We could not fully prevent them. We took steps: We arrested 2,800 suspects of such activity in Judaea and Samaria, many of whom belong to Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

We demand and expect the PA to do its duty in Gaza and Jericho—whether through reaching an agreement with these organizations that would prevent them from using Gaza and Jericho for the preparation of attacks inside or outside the territories, or through carrying out arrests and trials. We saw signs that things are starting there, but it is still not enough. We took steps such as the closure on Gaza, which reduced the threat of Gaza being used as a launching pad for attacks in Israel. I have reason to believe, although I do not have proof of this, that the two car-bombs that blew up the bus near Kefar Darom and the Border Patrol jeep on the Qarni-Netzarim road were planned to explode inside Israel. In 1994 they focused on terror attacks inside Israel because they had a political goal in mind.

[Hecht] Do you agree with the view that, in practice, we are leaving the fate of the peace process, perhaps even the next elections, in the hands of some Islamic engineer or mad shaykh who might blow up the process and throw you out of power, or sit quietly and give you a chance?

[Rabin] If it were up to the Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror elements, they would do anything they can to, primarily, prevent the continuation of the peace process. They know this could give them a shot at ruling the Palestinian people—which is their aim.

[Raz] In view of this, let me ask you: Had you known during the secret Oslo talks that suicide terror would develop here and that the PA would not be able, or find it very difficult, to rein in the Islamic elements, would you still have entered this process?

[Rabin] I entered the process with a clear mind because the alternative was to either find another Palestinian partner, with all its limitations, or to leave the situation intact, in which the extremist Islamic elements would

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increase their power and seize control over the Palestinians in the territories, which would leave us without any chance for a political solution. I will add, and forgive me for saying this: The fundamentalist murderers will not go to heaven, but the reality here is a terrorist's heaven. I speak of the reality of mixed populations in which Palestinians from the territories come to Israel and Israelis live in the territories over a widespread area. This reality provides thousands of Israeli targets for terror acts on a daily basis. We have, at least, isolated Gaza from Israel, which is not yet a solution for the Israelis in the Gaza area. This is why we beef up our forces on the one hand while closing the area on the other, all in order to provide the Israelis traveling in the territories with security.

[Hecht] This mad mix you speak of brings Netzarim into this discussion. Will you establish irreversible political facts during the time left before the elections? You have hinted that Netzarim is a pain in the neck. Will you evacuate it before the elections? As you well know, after the elections, the right might turn it into Netzarim city [last word in English], which you consider disastrous.

[Rabin] First, the Likud had the option to turn it into Netzarim city when it was in power. I did not see this happening then. Second, I made a decision in principle, and we have agreed on this with the Palestinians. I look for ways to attain a goal that I believe will solve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. I and Labor determined that we do not want a binational state. I believe the people of Israel have a right to the entire Eretz Yisra'el. Yet, in the current reality, what I want is: a Jewish state inside and on most of the territory of Eretz Yisra'el with a Palestinian entity which is less than a state alongside it, mainly in the territories of Gaza and Judaea and Samaria; absolutely not returning to the 1967 borders; and, primarily, united Jerusalem as our eternal capital under Israeli sovereignty. The security border is the Jordan River line. This is where we should be defending the State of Israel against an external enemy, and not in Ari'el and 'Imanu'el. And there are more changes. Still, first and foremost: Not returning to the 1967 borders; changing borders, but not annexing a major addition to the non-Jewish Israeli citizens from among the 2 million plus Palestinians who live in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. I am going to attain this goal in stages. The word withdrawal does not apply to Judaea and Samaria in the Declaration of Principles. There, we only speak of an IDF redeployment.

You asked me about Netzarim. Well, yes, I decided to leave all the settlements in place for the period of the interim arrangement with the PLO. But there is another issue that upsets me. The government made a decision regarding the kibbutzim arrangement [of aid to kibbutzim in economic distress] and who rises against it? The Likud. Do they want to leave Netzarim in place, invest army forces, and perhaps even suffer casualties, while eliminating Nir 'Am, Gevar'am, Kissufim, Mefalsim, and Nahal 'Oz? Why did I opt for the kibbutzim arrangement? For the confrontation line communities, for the kibbutzim on the Lebanese border. Why should Yir'on and Sasa be any different from Avivim and Dovev? I want all the communities on the confrontation lines to be equal. I want the kibbutzim to have what the moshavim have got, and more. This more will be provided when the kibbutzim in central Israel pay for a significant part of the debts with land they own.

[Hecht] You must know, Sir, that some members of your camp view Netzarim as a test case of your leadership. They say: If he cannot evacuate Netzarim, what will he be able to evacuate? You have said that this peace entails the evacuation of settlements.

[Rabin] That is true, but not at this stage, not during the interim arrangement period. It may very well be that it will involve some form of alternative in which settlements would remain in place but not under Israeli rule, or some will be evacuated. It was not I who set the precedent of evacuating settlements for peace. I have great respect for Menahem Begin, may he rest in peace, for having the courage to lead to the historic breakthrough between the Arab world and Israel—signing the peace treaty with Egypt. For it, we pulled out of all the Egyptian territories we conquered in 1967 and uprooted every piece of Israeli presence from it. I believe that his decision was correct, and I voted for it then. In historic perspective, it was one of the most important decisions ever made in Israel.

[Hecht] Perhaps that deal serves as a model for a possible or emerging arrangement with Syria?

[Rabin] The problem with Syria is more complex. It is my impression that the Syrian demands, at least at this stage, are far too high. That is why there are difficulties and holdups. And I am not saying that we necessarily agree with the Syrians on the al- Sadat formula.

[Ronen] You are going to Washington next week to meet with President Clinton. The U.S. media are saying that this will be one of the most important meetings, if not the most important one, between you. After the meeting, they say, it will be known whether the negotiations with Syria are stuck until after the Israeli and U.S. elections, or that a breakthrough has been made.

[Rabin] I do not want to express an opinion about the importance of the meeting at this stage. Undoubtedly, every such meeting is of importance. I do not know whether it will indicate a change of path. I assume that it is not necessarily so. Obviously, we will have to clarify certain issues and determine stands on how, in what way, and on what basis we should continue the negotiations with the Syrians. I attribute great importance to the continuation of the negotiations with Syria because it is worth remembering: We formed the relations and the main issues with the Palestinians, Egypt, and Jordan quietly. The Syrians would not follow this path. We very much appreciate the U.S. willingness, good offices, and the role it plays in sustaining the negotiations. I very

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much hope that the United States will continue moderating and bridging between us and the Syrians as it has so far.

[Raz] The foreign minister occasionally speaks of a decision made at the time by the Eshkol-Begin government. He has reiterated it on several occasions, while you never expressed either a reservation of the fact that he is mentioning it, nor support for this....

[Ronen, interrupting] Allow me to remind you that the decision in question says we are willing to return to the international border in return for peace with Syria.

[Rabin] Look, such a decision was made by the government, and several months later it was canceled. What can I do about this? Can I argue with the facts? You may ask me now: What will be the government policy in the negotiations? I will not go into details. I do not want to declare stands. I only want to say that whoever says peace with the entire Golan is possible is lying straightout to the people of Israel. Certainly those who took part in the peace process with Egypt—and the current Likud leader is not one of them—those who were party to the decisions the late Menahem Begin made at the time regarding the price of peace with Egypt must really have a nerve to say today that one can make peace while holding on to the entire Golan Heights or most of it. Why did they not leave us even 1 percent of the Sinai?

[Hecht] Do you believe that the next elections will evolve around the Golan issue with a combination of elections and a referendum at the same time?

[Rabin] I hope, though I cannot be certain, that we will perhaps reach an agreement with the Syrians before the elections. I would rather hold a referendum that directly addresses peace—because a situation of no peace has no immediate implications, but, in the medium term, it may have grave implications. Today, a government, and certainly a prime minister who is also a defense minister, must consider the significance of whatever option is chosen in terms of a period that exceeds their own term in office.

[Hecht] Do you mean that you want a referendum that is separate from the general elections?

[Rabin] Yes, as far as it depends on me. That is, provided that I arrive at a situation with Syria in which the government will adopt an agreement it can accept. Presently, the gaps between us and the Syrians regarding the main elements are still large. That is why I do not want to determine a date for when and if it will take place.

[Ronen] I feel that in the negotiations with Syria, we are in more of a hurry than al-Asad. It seems that al-Asad does not mind waiting until after the elections and is in no hurry, while we run faster than the Syrians?

[Rabin] Do you see me running? I only run on the tennis court. I do not run, but I want peace—not at all cost, not under any condition. This is why there were holdups and breaks in the negotiations with the Syrians.

Today, on the eve of Independence Day, I feel great satisfaction with the fact that between the last and present Independence Day we signed a peace treaty with an Arab country, Jordan, with which we have the longest border. We could not have attained this peace accord unless we had reached the Declaration of Principles and implemented Gaza and Jericho. Everyone appreciates the peace treaty with Jordan and there is broad national consensus on this. I very much doubt that we could have attained it without the first agreement. I also believe that the peace with Jordan will serve as a model and an example for peace between an Arab country and Israel.

[Raz] Meaning an exchange of territories?

[Rabin] I was not speaking about this, I was speaking about the peace itself. I do not refer to tiny problems of borders. I speak of the relations that will be built. This is the true peace.

[Hecht] Did you meet any senior Syrian official during your recent trip to Bonn? After all, there was no photo opportunity or any public documentation of your meetings there.

[Rabin] I met no Syrian, which I regret. The Syrians do not want to meet us, certainly not on a high level, and I believe this is one of the gravest mistakes the Syrians are making, if indeed they want peace.

[Raz] Perhaps Yosi Beilin is right in doubting that Syria made a strategic decision to go for peace?

[Rabin] I believe that all the parties involved in the peace process, who attended the Madrid conference and continued since, want peace. This is why I do not doubt that Syria wants peace. When I say peace, I do not mean love. One cannot find love in international relations, certainly not in the Middle East. At most, there is a sharing of interests. There are incidents of understanding between leaders as well as disagreements—as we can see with the country with which we have the oldest peace. Disagreements do not violate or harm peace. [passage omitted]

Further on Rabin Topics for Clinton Talks

TA3004085695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Hemi Shalev, Washington correspondent 'Avino'am Bar-Yosef, and Alex Fishman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel will be willing to drop its demand for an overall reduction in the size of the Syrian Army but will continue to demand that Syria maintain a limited military presence in the area stretching from the border line that will be determined to the outskirts of Damascus. This was reported by Jerusalem sources last night.

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Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will relay a clarification in this spirit to U.S. President Bill Clinton during their upcoming meeting. Rabin will leave for Washington after Independence Day and will also meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Secretary of Defense William Perry. After their meeting next Sunday, Clinton and Rabin will appear jointly before the annual conference of the Jewish lobby, AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee].

Reports that have reached Jerusalem recently indicate that the Israeli demand that the Syrians reduce the size of their army, raised in the chiefs of staff meeting in December, was perceived by Syrian President al-Asad as "humiliating." Al-Asad interpreted this demand as an Israeli attempt to destabilize his regime.

Speaking in closed forums, Rabin has already expressed an "understanding" for al-Asad's refusal to downsize his army and said the Syrians will not accept any restriction that was not imposed on Egypt when the peace treaty with it was signed. In his conversation with Clinton, Rabin intends to clarify, one by one, the security issues that Israel is willing to discuss and those Syrian demands that it cannot accept, primarily the Syrian demand for "parity" in security arrangements on the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, political sources have reported that "limited progress" was made in the talks between Syrian Ambassador Walid al- Mu'allim and his Israeli counterpart, Itamar Rabinovich. The two will hold several additional meetings in the coming week, prior to Rabin's arrival in the U.S. capital. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 30 April carries a report by Aluf Ben on page A5 adding that "during his upcoming visit to the United States, Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, will discuss the sales of U.S. weapons to Arab countries in an attempt to reach understandings with the administration on this issue.

["Rabin will express Israel's concern over the continued supply of sophisticated arms to Arab countries, mainly to the Gulf states. He will tell President Clinton and Secretary of Defense Perry that, despite the peace process, the Middle East is still politically and militarily unstable, which must be taken into account before approving new arms deals."

["Israeli sources said yesterday that Israel does not fear that the Gulf countries might use the weapons against it but that the weapons might be relayed in the future to hostile elements or confrontation countries or that terror organizations might get a hold of the weapons and use them against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. According to the sources, the greatest fear concerns missiles that can easily be moved between countries. The sources said that 'Rabin will wish to discuss the issue of arms sales to the Arabs in principle and not address any one specific deal'."]

Netanyahu: U.S. Sending Likud Messages to al-Asad

TA3004062295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Sarah Honig]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has been sending messages to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad via US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, telling Asad that "the Likud will not withdraw from the Golan when we form the next government. Al-Asad can forget about that."

He made the disclosure yesterday to reject rumors that he, too, would be willing to withdraw from the Golan and that therefore there is no rush to complete a deal with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin before the 1996 elections.

"I am certainly not ready to abandon the Golan, and I am going on the record with that as clearly as possible, but this does not mean that a dialogue with Syria cannot continue on other issues," Netanyahu said.

The messages Netanyahu did dispatch to Syria are also seen as connected to the upcoming elections, and are intended to indicate that he, too, plans to maintain some form of dialogue with Syria. To date he has received no reply.

Netanyahu explained yesterday that what he has in mind is seeking more modest goals than a full overall arrangement with the Syrians, "which at present seems out of reach. Israel wants a contractual peace and full normalization, and the signs emanating from Damascus are that al-Asad does not want to meet our conditions.

"He, on the other hand, demands full withdrawal from every inch of the Golan, which any sane and responsible Israeli government ought to reject. The practical conclusion seems to be that rather than go for the unattainable maximum, we would perhaps do best to concentrate on arrangements which do not necessitate impossible risks on Israel's part and do not necessitate Syria's agreement to full normalization, which is what al-Asad is loath to commit himself to."

Netanyahu argues that among the topics which could lead to a limited arrangement with the Syrians would be dealing with the water problems, removing Syria from the list of terror-sponsoring nations, and the status of Syria in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Rabinovich Doubts U.S. Relaying Messages

TA3004063495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israeli ambassador to the United States and head of the negotiating team with Syria, by Mikha Friedman and Gilat Mo'av; place not given—live]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Friedman] Yitzhaq Rabin says that the gaps with Syria in the negotiations are still wide. How wide can they be, considering that Israel is ready to withdraw to the international border and that the distance between it and the 4 June 1967 border, which Syria is insisting on, is only several hundred meters in some places and the two overlap in others?

[Rabinovich] I think you are racing far ahead of the negotiations. Israel has not expressed readiness to withdraw to the international border. You are basing yourself on speculation. The Syrians did not hear anything like that from us. Had they heard something like that, I do not think the Syrian media would carry a daily demand for such an Israeli promise. Thus, the gaps in the negotiations are still wide.

[Friedman] Had they heard that from us, do you think it would satisfy al-Asad, the lion?

[Rabinovich] First of all, it is something they would very much like to hear. Second, it is not everything, because beyond the territorial question and the demarcation of the border, there are differences over security arrangements and the timetable for an arrangement, the link between normalization and withdrawal. Agreement must still be reached on all those issues, and there are significant gaps between us and the Syrians on all of them.

[Friedman] Is the idea put forward by Shim'on Peres—an Israeli readiness to hold a parallel discussion on security arrangements and withdrawal—meant as a real enticement for al- Asad to agree to raise the level of the talks?

[Rabinovich] I do not think the issue here is one of enticements. It is an alternative to our current approach. The Syrians still have to respond to the proposal.

[Friedman] Does such a proposal exist?

[Rabinovich] The foreign minister raised it publicly.

[Friedman] Is the intention to raise the level of the talks to the foreign minister level?

[Rabinovich] I assume so. In any event, it refers to transferring the talks to the political echelon.

[Friedman] I am asking because there is a new idea here in Israel to appoint a minister to be in charge of the negotiations with Syria, and Ehud Baraq's name is being mentioned, should he agree to join the cabinet. I hear silence on the other side.

[Rabinovich] I am not the one to comment on that idea.

[Mo'av] To return to the dispute between Israel and Syria, is giving up the demand to reduce the overall size of the Syrian Army one of the ideas Rabin plans to raise in his meeting with the U.S. President next week?

[Rabinovich] Had the prime minister wanted to go into the details of the new ideas he is going to bring up, he would have done so. Therefore, we will not get into that. In reference to what you said about reducing the size of the Syrian Army, we did not raise that issue as a demand. When views were exchanged between the two chiefs of staff, the issue cropped up. It is obvious that such an issue exists, because when discussing lines and security arrangements, early warnings, the question that immediately comes up is: warnings against whom? What is the size of the forces, how are they built, how are they deployed? We cannot ignore that issue, but at no time was such an Israeli position presented to the Syrians in the form of a demand.

[Mo'av] We read a quote in MA'ARIV this morning by Major General Uri Sagi, head of the Intelligence Branch, who said that if the Syrians are not given to understand that they will receive the entire Golan Heights in the long run, they will never sign a peace accord. How do you respond to that?

[Rabinovich] I think negotiations should be held with the intention of achieving the best results. I find it hard to believe that such a statement was made as a message to the Syrians, because it definitely does not help the negotiations.

[Mo'av] Do you think saying it was a mistake?

[Rabinovich] I cannot comment on what might have been said by an Israeli official based on media reports. I suggest leaving the issue aside.

[Friedman] Should we be surprised that Syrian President al- Asad has still not responded to the message Binyamin Netanyahu sent him several weeks ago via Warren Christopher?

[Rabinovich] As far as I know, the U.S. secretary of state did not transfer any messages from Israeli opposition leaders to the Syrian president.

[Friedman] Netanyahu, however, said he told al-Asad there would be something for the Likud and Syria to discuss if the Likud should head the Israeli Government—not a withdrawal from the Golan, of course, but security problems, terrorism, Lebanon, water.

[Rabinovich] I am sure the Syrians heard about it through the media reports, and if they want to respond, they will.

[Friedman] But messages were not transmitted by Christopher directly to al-Asad?

[Rabinovich] I believe the U.S. Administration and the secretary of state in particular fulfill a role in the negotiations between the Syrian Government and the Israeli Government.

Peres 'Extremely Encouraged' by Clinton Meeting

TA0105051895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton held a 30-minute tete-a-tete with Foreign Minister Shim'on

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Peres in New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel, where a reception was held for World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman yesterday. After the meeting, Peres told our correspondent Arye Golan that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will arrive in Washington late this week and will stress Israel's desire to achieve a comprehensive peace arrangement in the Middle East:

[Begin recording] [Peres] We spoke about the future of the Middle East, Israel's security problems, and the continuation of the peace process. I found him entirely sympathetic to Israel's problems and aspirations, and committed as always. I left the meeting extremely encouraged.

[Golan] Did you discuss in detail how to get out of the stalemate in the talks with Syria? Did you raise any new ideas? You are now talking about the international border.

[Peres] I do not want to go into the details of the meeting. I attribute great significance to the prime minister's upcoming meeting with the President. I broached, to some extent, issues in anticipation of the upcoming meeting.

[Golan] Are you implying that Mr. Rabin will raise new ideas for advancing the negotiations with Syria?

[Peres] Look, those are big words, but I am convinced the prime minister will evince a sincere desire to bring about a comprehensive arrangement in the Middle East. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 1 May, reporting on Peres' meeting with Clinton, adds: "Foreign Minister Peres said that peace with Syria will put an end to the state of war throughout the Middle East. Mr. Peres refused to say whether this necessitates a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights."]

Closure To Be Imposed on Territories 2-6 May

TA3004154695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A closure will be imposed on the territories starting from midnight on the eve of Remembrance Day [2 May] for Israel's fallen soldiers. It will continue until Saturday night [6 May].

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Committee Condemns Israeli Stand on NPT

JN2904173295 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1620 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 29 Apr (PETRA)—The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives held a meeting today headed by its chairman Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur and attended by its rapporteur House member Engineer Hammad Abu-Jamus. The committee discussed a number of current political issues.

House member al-Nusur said the committee members expressed deep concern over Israel's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] and the position of the big powers, which exempt Israel from signing the treaty and give it a free hand to acquire mass destruction weapons to ensure its superiority in our region.

He added that the committee expects to hear a statement from the foreign minister as soon as possible on Jordan's position on this subject.

Al-Nusur said the committee discussed Israel's confiscation of more land in Arab Jerusalem to house Jewish immigrants in defiance of the feelings of Arab and Muslims. He added this is something that we will continue to condemn and resist, and we will not recognize its results.

He said the committee has received information from the Red Cross on the martyrdom of Palestinian prisoners, and the autopsy which proved that they die as a result of torture. This is denounced by all humanity despite the silence of the West, which is known for its double standards.

He said the Foreign Affairs Committee wonders what would have been the reaction of the biased and dishonest media had the victim been an Israeli.

Concluding his statement, he emphasized that the committee members discussed the latest reports on Israel's continuation of excavations under the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in search of an alleged Jewish temple.

Minister: Country Obligated To Revoke Israel Boycott

JN2904175995 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 29 Apr 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] In a telephone conversation with AL-ASWAQ, Minister of Planning Mrs. Rima Khalaf has stated that Jordan is not obligated to grant Israeli commodities and products any privileges. Rather, she added, Jordan will accord Israeli commodities and products the same treatment it accords to the commodities and products of other states with which Jordan maintains economic ties.

Khalaf noted that the Israeli commodities entering Jordan, like any other foreign commodities, will be subject to customs tariffs.

With regard to revoking the boycott of Israeli commodities, she said that given the ratification of the peace treaty and the signing of the economic agreement with Israel, Jordan is obligated to revoke the economic boycott of Israel.

Al-Kabariti, Tunisian Minister, Qaddumi on NPT

JN2904164995 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 29 Apr (PETRA)—Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has returned to Amman from Jakarta after participating in the conference on reviewing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] in New York and meetings of the Ministerial Coordination Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] in Bandung, and after meeting with a number of officials in Jakarta.

In a press statement, al-Kabariti said the New York and Bandung conferences and his meetings in Jakarta provided a good opportunity to hold contacts with a number of foreign ministers on bilateral coordination and strengthening relations.

He said the Arab group did not succeed in reaching a unified position during the nuclear nonproliferation conference, and the same was the case with the NAM meeting on extending the treaty.

He said His Majesty King Husayn had given instructions to attend these conference and to coordinate and be committed to any unified position reached by the Arabs and the NAM. He said the Jordanian position will be discussed and a stand that serves national interest will be adopted.

On board the same plane, Said Ben Mustapha, Tunisian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Amman en route to Tunisia, as well as Faruq Qaddumi, official in charge of foreign affairs in the Palestinian National Authority [title as received].

On the meetings and positions of countries expressed at these meetings, Ben Mustapha said the talks were serious and important, and the results were satisfactory. He said the most important result of the conference was the agreement on the general principles that govern the issue of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

Qaddumi said NAM member states should be protected from nuclear and mass destruction weapons.

On the Israeli position and Israel's refusal to sign the NPT, Qaddumi said the Arab group has insisted that no exception should be made concerning the treaty and that all countries should sign it. He said the failure to sign the treaty by Israel means that it possesses nuclear weapons, which pose a threat to the region.

Further on al-Kabariti, Qaddumi Meeting

JN3004173795 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti conferred with head of the PLO's

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Political Department Faruq Qaddumi. The two men discussed the outcome of the just-concluded nonaligned ministerial meeting in Bandung, Indonesia. Mr. al-Kabariti and the PLO official agreed to coordinate positions towards Israeli plans to expropriate Arab land in East Jerusalem.

Mr. al-Kabariti also received a telephone call from Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and discussed a forthcoming Arab foreign ministers' meeting to discuss issues related to Jerusalem.

Al-Kabariti on Rejection of Flights for Libyans

JN3004064495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Apr 95 pp 1, 7

[Article by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman—Jordan on Saturday [29 April] reacted with dismay to a U.N. Sanctions Committee decision to turn down a request by Royal Jordanian (RJ) airlines to carry Libyan pilgrims to Mecca for the annual Haj season.

"We are disappointed at the decision. We do not see any justification for rejecting (the RJ request) at a time when permission to carry (the Libyan pilgrims) was granted to other companies," Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, who returned home Saturday after heading Jordan's delegation to a meeting by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to discuss the extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in Bandung, Indonesia, told the JORDAN TIMES.

The U.N. committee rejected Jordan's request Friday after the U.S. and Germany argued that no additional flights were needed since the committee lst week authorised 45 flights by Egyptair planes to carry Libyan pilgrims.

The U.N. in 1992 enforced a ban on international air traffic to Libya for refusing to surrender two Libyans accused of involvement in the bombing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988.

The U.S. says that the previously authorised Egyptair flights are sufficient to carry all the Libyan pilgrims to Mecca.

Sources quoted by Reuters said the flights could carry 13,500 pilgrims while the quota for Libya pilgrims is set by Saudi Arabia at 7,500. The committee did not object when Egypt announced it would carry more than the 6,000 pilgrims it initially said it would transport from Libya to Saudi Arabia.

Mr. al-Kabariti, who also led the Kingdom's delegation to the debate over the NPT in the U.N., reiterated his disappointment at the failure of the NAM and the Arab countries to reach a consensus on the position towards the extension of the NPT.

The U.S. is lobbying for an indefinite extension of the treaty while Third World countries want a definite extension and guarantees about the use and spread of nuclear arms and power.

A major controversy over the NPT arose when Egypt linked its signing of the treaty to Israel's acceptance to enter it. Israel reportedly has 200 nuclear warheads but refuses to sign the treaty or to declare itself a nuclear power.

Mr. al-Kabariti said he decided to "float" the Jordanian position on the NPT and refer the issue to His Majesty the King for directives.

In his speech before the U.N. in New York, the foreign minister did not endorse an indefinite extension of the NPT.

Jordan had said that its position on the NPT would be in harmony with the stand of the Arab League and the NAM. In an arrival statement Saturday, Mr. al-Kabariti said King Husayn had issued directives that the Kingdom be committed to any decision agreed upon by the Arab states.

But in light of the failure of the two groups to reach a consensus, Mr. al-Kabariti said, the Kingdom's position would be guided by the "Jordanian and national interest of the Kingdom." [passage omitted]

Joint Staff Chief Returns From Russia

JN2904181395 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, returned to Amman last night at the end of an official visit to Russia that lasted for several days.

During the visit he met with a number of military officials and visited a number of military sites there.

He was welcomed at Queen Alia International Airport by chief of staff of the Royal Land Forces, the Russian ambassador, and Russian military attache in Amman.

Wives of 2 Jailed Americans Leave for Baghdad

JN2904195095 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 29 Apr 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The wives of two Americans jailed in Iraq headed to Baghdad hoping to visit their husbands.

Linda Barloon and Kathy Daliberti had their passports stamped at al-Ruwayshid border post and are expected to arrive in the Iraqi capital later in the day.

The Polish diplomat who represents U.S. interests in Iraq was to travel with the two women to Baghdad.

William Barloon and David Daliberti were arrested in Iraq on March 13th after illegally crossing the border from Kuwait. They were tried and sentenced to eight years in jail.

Their wives said they were hopeful Iraqi authorities might reprieve the jailed men.

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Al-Hirawi Rejects 'Peace Based on Deals'

NC0105045695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has announced that Lebanon is standing at a fateful, historical junction at this stormy time which is full of unexpected developments.

He declared that he and Syrian President al-Asad do not believe in a peace based on deals, because a just and comprehensive peace is not accomplished by restoring rights incompletely or piecemeal.

Al-Hirawi emphasized that Lebanon's foremost cause, compared with which all other issues pale, is to restore the south and the western al-Biqa' to the rest of the homeland. He said that Lebanon means every part of its territory and that its unity signifies the unity of all its sons.

Al-Hirawi said that a strong, capable state is one that is built by the citizens not one that oppresses the citizens. He said that security is necessary to ensure the progress of society, the state, and the homeland.

[Begin al-Hirawi recording] Reorganizing, reforming, and renewing government departments is the only way to rebuild the state in such a manner that it will be able to carry out its functions and provide services more readily to the citizens. Dear brothers, the state's success is everyone's success. The law is used as a bulwark against chaos, justice against injustice, development against backwardness, and democracy against hegemony and recklessness. [passage omitted]

We have three overriding priorities: everyone's loyalty to the state, which will lead the country into the future; the building of society and the individual on the principle of good citizenship, which means competing to serve Lebanon instead of engaging in infighting at Lebanon's expense; and liberating our precious occupied territories in the south and the western al-Biqa'. Our primary cause—no other cause comes before it—is to return the south and the western al-Biqa' to the homeland's embrace. Lebanon means every bit of its territories. Lebanon's unity is the unity of all the Lebanese people. When we joined the negotiations, we pledged solidarity with the Arab brothers and insisted on the implementation of the UN resolutions, notably Security Council Resolution 425. We facilitated the international efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace. Although some brothers, in the midst of the peace battle, concluded separate agreements, we and Syria remained the ones most concerned about safeguarding legitimate rights and attaining a just and comprehensive peace. President al-Asad and we do not believe in a peace based on deals. A just and comprehensive peace cannot be based on treating rights piecemeal or restoring them incompletely. The closeness of the Lebanese and Syrian negotiating tracks is designed to restore our rights, safeguard Arab dignity, and ensure that a just and comprehensive peace emerges triumphant. [end recording]

President Ilyas al-Hirawi made the above remarks at a ceremony during which he laid the cornerstone for a new Justice Ministry building in northern al-Matn. [passage omitted]

Minister Rejects 'One-Sided' Security Arrangements

NC0105045895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has emphatically rejected any one-sided security arrangements with the Israeli enemy. He pointed out that it is not right to set up early warning stations in the al-Biqa' without setting up similar stations inside Israel.

Dallul stressed the importance of merging the Lebanese and Syrian negotiating tracks to enable Lebanon to remain steadfast against Israeli attempts at hegemony. He praised fraternal Syria's unlimited assistance to the Lebanese Army in establishing security and stability and defending the country's achievements.

Minister Dallul made these remarks during a meeting with a group of citizens from Sa'd Nayil this afternoon.

Hizballah's Qasim Threatens To Shell Northern Israel

NC2904074195 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hizballah has threatened to shell the Zionist settlements in northern occupied Palestine if Israel attacks our people in the south or targets residential areas. The party affirmed that there cannot be two standards. If civilians are attacked, katyushas will reach the Jewish settlements. The Hizballah deputy secretary general believes that the suicide operation carried out by the hero Salah Muhammad 'Ali Ghandur, which targeted the center of Zionist intelligence in Bint Jubayl, was one of the most difficult operations in preparation, execution, courage, and timing. He pointed out that it is only right for the enemy to be confused after this operation was carried out. Shaykh Qasim addressed the celebration organized by the Islamic Resistance and the people of Iqlim al-Tuffah in Kafr Milki yesterday. [passage omitted]

[Begin Qasim recording] We have learned the secret. We have learned that Israeli security is the heart of the matter. This is why we have decided to direct our attacks at Israeli security. [passage omitted]

We will continue to pound Israeli security. We will continue with all kinds of operations to deter stability for any usurping Israeli presence on all the occupied territories. Let the Israelis know that our villages must be safe

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and secure and our people must enjoy stability. The people have our trust. If you carry out any action that harms our people, then you should expect our katyushas to reach northern Palestine at any point in time, because there can be no security for anyone if our people are not secure. This does not mean that we will offer security to the occupying Israelis. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Hizballah Radio Reports Israeli Attacks in South

NC2904074295 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli occupation forces have escalated the security situation in the south in a noticeable way. The Israeli artillery shelled the al-Litani river and the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah using 155-mm shells from their positions in al-Zaffatah. After that, the enemy artillery in al-'Ayshiyah deliberately shelled al-Jabal al-Rafi' using 120-mm shells. The al-Litani river, the outskirts of Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah also came under hostile shelling of 155-mm caliber from the enemy posts in al-Tayyibah.

After that, the occupation forces targeted the al-Litani river and outskirts of the two Zawtars by indiscriminate hostile shelling. The Taw'amat Niha post area was also raked. These attacks were accompanied by Israeli warplane flights over al-Zahrani and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

At around 1600, the circle of Zionist attacks was extended to reach the town of Majdal Zun at a time when the residents were planting tobacco in one of the fields. These indiscriminate practices continued for half an hour.

Hizballah Warns Israel Against Shelling Civilians

NC2904203895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 29 Apr 95

[Interview with Shaykh Sa'id Qasim, Hizballah deputy secretary general, by correspondent Jihad al-'Aydan; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-'Aydan] Your Eminence Shaykh Na'im Qasim: You have announced that you will carry out retaliatory operations against the Zionist troops inside the occupied security zone. Is this a new strategy?

[Qasim] We fight the Israeli enemy anywhere they occupy. Our actions inside the occupied border zone aim to expel this occupier; so there is nothing new in what we are doing. Whenever the Israeli enemy shells and harms civilians in our villages, we will shell northern Palestine and the Israeli settlements.

[Al-'Aydan] Could you tell us about the reactions to the recent martyrdom operation and its effects on the overall situation in the region?

[Qasim] Observers consider this superb operation as a prominent event in the jihad against the Israeli enemy, particularly since it occurred in the Bint Jubayl area, which is very close to the border of occupied Palestine. The Israeli enemy considers this area so safe that they move around freely, believing that it is beyond the mujahidin's reach. This operation has proved that the mujahidin's familiarity with all enemy movements is so accurate that the explosion took place at the right time and the right place as planned. More than 30 enemy personnel were either been killed or wounded, as documented by pictures. All analysts believe that such operations confuse the Israeli enemy further and disprove the claim of the new Israeli commander of the northern zone that he is in control of the situation there. Thus, this operation takes things back to square one for them. These operations spark the public zeal. There is Lebanese, Arab, and Islamic unanimity on the feasibility of these operations, which are much blessed. This means that the Israeli-U.S. settlement march is wavering because of such operations. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Aydan] Are there are new developments in the field in the wake of the operation?

[Qasim] We have not noticed any developments in the field. It seems that this is due to Israel's confusion about how to handle the matter. The enemy leaders have tried through the media to minimize the casualty count in order to avoid being drawn into an escalation that could backfire on them, particularly since Hizballah has warned that any punitive action against civilians will be met with a bombardment of northern Palestine. I believe that they are taking this warning seriously.

[Al-'Aydan] Thank you, Your Eminence.

[Qasim] You are welcome.

Hizballah Issues Statement on Israeli Advances

NC0105045795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A security source in al-Nabatiyah reports that at 0930 today, an Israeli military unit tried to advance toward al-Jabal-al-Rafi' in Iqlim al-Tuffah. A group from the Lebanese resistance engaged the advancing Israeli unit while another resistance support group bombarded it with rocket-propelled grenades. The Islamic Resistance issued the following statement:

At 0730 today, two groups from the Faithful Resistance spotted an Israeli paratroop unit advancing on al-Jabal al-Rafi' toward the old post on 'Arab Salim hill. A resistance group launched a surprise attack on the advancing force, scoring direct hits among its members. After that, two groups moved to support the first group on the northern side of the 'Arab Salim post. They attacked the advancing force, inflicting many casualties among its ranks. At the same time, another group shelled the Israeli force and the roads along which it retreated.

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The artillery of the Israeli occupation forces prepared for the advance by shelling the region from the Israeli positions in al- Zaffatah. The shelling continued intermittently for 15 minutes, while Israeli warplanes flew at a low altitude over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah. Israeli warplanes also carried out mock raids over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah for 5 minutes, and they were engaged by the Lebanese Army's antiaircraft fire.

At 1200 today, a force from the army of agent Antoine Lahd advanced from its position on Shwayya hill north of Hasbayya toward the hills of Mount al-Wastani, 2 km north of the occupied border strip. It raked the area for two hours. This was preceded by a mortar barrage from the Shwayya position and directed at the periphery of (Mazra'at 'Ayn Tanta) and Mount al-Wastani. About 12 rounds landed, setting fire to some plants.

Helicopters continued flying over the villages of Western and Central al-Biqa' throughout the night, dropping illumination flares and strafing the nearby valleys and woods with heavy machine guns. This was accompanied by activity by combat and reconnaissance aircraft, which continued until dawn today. Security sources report that several rounds fired from enemy positions in al-Bayyadah fell around the towns of al-Mansuri and Majdal Zun in the Western sector today.

In another development, the Israeli occupation forces this morning reopened the Kafr Tibnit crossing point on both sides after a two-day closure. There was noticeable traffic at the crossing point after its opening. Arrivals from that crossing point report that the Israeli occupation forces are taking strict security measures on the roads and in the villages of the occupied border strip after the recent martyrdom-seeking operation in Bint Jubayl, and they say that anger is festering among the citizens of the occupied strip.

Meanwhile, the Israeli naval blockade of the fishing ports in Tyre and al-Sarafand has entered its 88th day. Israeli naval units continued to patrol off the coast north and south of Tyre. Speed boats fired illumination rounds along the coastline throughout the night. At dawn today a gunboat chased after fishing boats up to [place name indistinct] off Tyre and opened fire at them, forcing the fishermen to return to the port without fishing. The fishermen stress that such attacks are carried out more than once every day.

We have been told that Israeli warplanes resumed flights over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah at 1700 today, launching mock raids.

U.S. Report on Iran, Hizballah Criticized

NC0105112695 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An authoritative Hizballah source has stated that it is not ashamed of publicly antagonizing the United States. It sees our dispute with it as a yardstick for freedom. He declared that the state which is the biggest sponsor of organized terrorism in the world has no right to judge those seeking freedom and defending their right to a dignified life.

The authoritative Hizballah source strongly criticized the U.S. report that accuses the Islamic Republic of Iran of terrorism. He asked: Does the state which is the biggest sponsor and advocate of organized terrorism in the world have the right to call free men terrorists? The same source added: Is it not odd that the United States bends international laws in favor of its policy against small, oppressed people? Is it not odd that the United States forcibly imposes the implementation of some UN resolutions while it obstructs these resolutions when it concerns its ally Israel? Is it not odd that the United states—the self-proclaimed leader of world democracy—supports dictatorial regimes, helps them oppress their people and take away their human rights?

The authoritative Hizballah source affirmed that the U.S. State Department report contains statements to cause incitement against Hizballah in Lebanon and it distorts facts. These distortions will lead to nothing and will deceive no one. Our Lebanese society knows the facts well and deeply sympathizes with the resistance and the resistance fighters, who are working for the sacred liberation war and working to establish and consolidate civil peace.

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Reportage on Visit of Armenian Government Delegation

Prime Minister Receives Counterpart

JN2904144695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Armenian Prime Minister Hrant Bagratyan and the accompanying delegation today. The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad Harbah, minister of interior; Dr. Danhu Dawud, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and Dr. Ahmad Nizam-al-Din, minister of industry. Talks during the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and means to reinforce and develop these relations.

President Greets Delegation

JN3004185295 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Armenian Prime Minister Hrant Bagratyan and his delegation at the People's Palace at 1800 today.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Armenian Charge D'affaires in Damascus Dr. (David Ohansyan). Bagratyan conveyed to President al-Asad a message from Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and an invitation to visit Armenia. President al-Asad accepted the invitation and promised to respond to it at an appropriate time.

The Armenian prime minister expressed satisfaction with the Syrian-Armenian talks held in Damascus. He lauded the constructive role Syria is playing in the region. Talks dealt with the situation in the region and bilateral relations.

Oil Minister Reviews Cooperation

JN3004200695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Eng. Nadir Nabulsi this morning received Miron Shishmanyan, Armenia's minister of energy and fuel. Eng. Munib Sa'im-al-Dahr, minister of electricity, attended.

They discussed the existing ties of cooperation between Syria and Armenia in all economic fields, particularly in the fields of oil and electricity.

Dr. Nabulsi stressed the need to strengthen the ties of friendship between Syria and Armenia and the need to bolster these ties and execute the joint ventures.

For his part, Shishmanyan praised the existing ties of cooperation between the two countries. He said his ministry is ready for constructive cooperation and to exchange expertise and set practical bases for cooperation between the concerned agencies in Syria and Armenia and to utilize these bases in an ideal way.

'Satisfaction' With Talks Expressed

JN0105075995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Armenian Prime Minister Hrant Bagratyan and his delegation at the People's Palace yesterday evening.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Armenian Charge d'Affaires in Damascus Dr. (David Ohansyan). Bagratyan conveyed to his excellency the president a message from Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and an invitation to visit Armenia. President al-Asad accepted the invitation and promised to make the visit at an appropriate time.

The Armenian prime minister expressed satisfaction with the Syrian-Armenian talks held in Damascus. He lauded the constructive role Syria is playing in the region. Talks dealt with the situation in the region and bilateral relations.

The official talks between the Syrian Arab side headed by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the Armenian side headed by Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan were concluded yesterday evening. Members of the two countries' delegations attended. At the outset of the final session of talks, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi delivered a speech underscoring the importance of Bagratyan's visit to Damascus and the outcome of this visit, particularly the agreements reached between the two countries to promote previous agreements.

The prime minister called for promoting and enhancing ties between the two friendly peoples, and also for holding meetings among officials of the two friendly countries a firm tradition in order to follow up on the implementation of the agreements reached.

The prime minister thanked the Armenian and Syrian ministers and officials who, during the meetings and discussions, made great efforts to reach these results, which will promote the prosperity of the two friendly peoples and countries and enhance the goals set for Syrian-Armenian ties by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Levon Ter-Petrosyan, which are being constantly promoted.

For his part, Bagratyan expressed his own and the delegation's gratitude for the hospitality and warm reception accorded to them. He added: We harbor the most gratitude and respect for the Syrian president, government, and people. He noted that the results achieved will promote Armenian-Syrian ties, whose foundations were laid by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Levon Ter-Petrosyan. He invited the prime minister to visit Armenia. The prime minister accepted the invitation and promised to make the visit at a later date.

Afterward, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Grant Bagratyan signed the meeting minutes. An agreement on cooperation between the Interior Ministries in the two countries was also signed. It was signed for Syria by

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Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah. For Armenia, it was signed by [Minister of State] Vazgen Sargisyan. An agreement on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation was also signed. It was signed for Syria by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade. For Armenia, it was signed by Minister of Industry Mrs. Ashot Safaryan. Moreover, the two sides signed an agreement on avoiding double taxation. Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini signed for Syria, while Industry Minister Mrs. Ashot Safaryan signed for Armenia. They also signed an air transport agreement. For Syria, it was signed by Minister of Transportation Dr. Mufid 'Abd-al-Karim. For Armenia, it was signed by Interior Minister [title as heard] Vazgen Sargisyan.

Assembly Speaker Views Peace Talks, U.S. Role

NC0105063495 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 1 May 95

[Telephone interview with Syrian People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah in Kuwait by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] ['Abd-Al-'Aziz] How far have the Syrian-Israeli negotiations gone?

[Qaddurah] As you hear in the media and read in the press, these negotiations are proceeding, but they have not produced tangible results.

['Abd-Al-'Aziz] But reports indicate that Israel has put forward proposals that will result in overcoming the difficulties with you?

[Qaddurah] If what you are saying is true ... [changes thought] by saying that we believe in a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic option we mean that if the conditions on which the peace process that started in Madrid was based are fulfilled, then things will be easy.

['Abd-Al-'Aziz] The Syrian stance is firm and is known; namely, withdrawal in exchange for peace. But is there something new in the Syrian position that could break the stagnation on the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Qaddurah] Syria has never been responsible for creating this stagnation. This question and these remarks must be put to the party that is responsible for the stagnation by failing to honor the principles on the basis of which the Madrid Conference was held. Peace is a strategic option for Syria, but it is the kind of peace that is designated by international legality and its resolutions and by all those who work for peace in this region: a comprehensive peace for a full withdrawal and full rights.

['Abd-Al-'Aziz] In light of the U.S. President's and secretary of state's visits to Syria and the resumption of talks between them and Syria, do you expect a more active U.S. role to pressure Israel to achieve a just and comprehensive peace between you?

[Qaddurah] We always say that a role by the United States, as one of the cosponsors of the Madrid Conference, is required. This role, which must be fair, must address the party that is placing obstacles before peace. Accordingly, this U.S. role must operate in accordance with the international legality resolutions, which the United States voted for, and under the rules it put forward in its initiative, which Syria has accepted.

['Abd-Al-'Aziz] Thank you very much, Mr. Qaddurah, and welcome to Voice of the Arabs.

[Qaddurah] Thank you.

Paper: Talks in Washington Show Adherence to Peace

JN2904085995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today under the headline "Before It Is Too Late", the newspaper AL-THAWRAH points to the cable President al-Asad has sent to U.S. President Bill Clinton in which he denounced the Oklahoma explosion and reiterated Syria's thanks for his efforts to achieve peace in the region.

AL-THAWRAH says: The resumption of talks between the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors in Washington a few days ago proves Syria fulfills its obligations toward peace and the U.S. Administration. This meeting has made the United States and the world realize Syria supports peace in words and deeds. As President al-Asad said on several occasions, peace is Syria's strategy.

The editorial notes: The Israeli stand is much different. It is no more than maneuvering which Israel carries out every time the international community pressures it to fulfill its obligations toward peace. Israel has joined the peace process unwillingly. It has not fulfilled any of its obligations toward peace.

The paper wonders about the Washington talks at a time when Israel rejects all the basic elements which were agreed upon to resume these talks, and continues its aggressive acts of besieging Lebanese areas, aggressions against the south Lebanese people, and repression against the Palestinian people.

Concluding, the editorial says: Israeli talk about withdrawal from the Golan is still seasonal. It is linked to the election season. It fluctuates in accordance with the indexes of local consumption. No Israeli officials has ever announced an official and accurate position on Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and the security arrangements and the areas to which they apply.

The topic of the Israeli elections must not be the Golan and southern Lebanon. Talk about peace is not governed by time, but by specific stands. The use of time as a means of pressure is rejected, for Syria cannot be provoked by this means. Syria will never accept any kind of

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peace that undermines its known basic conditions. It will not accept a peace the Syrian people do not want. It is impossible for Syria to win peace and lose the people.

Commentary Ponders Future Mideast Stability

JN3004195595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1141 GMT 30 Apr 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Once again, Israel is attempting to undermine the available peace opportunity, abort the U.S. initiative, and dash any hopes of a new achievement to save the peace process and push it forward.

The statements made by Rabin and Peres resemble soap bubbles which grow a little, float in the air, but soon explode. These bubbles have neither stopped nor reached further than the nose. This reaffirms that as far as Israel is concerned, it is merely maneuvering, circumventing what can be circumvented, and containing what cannot be circumvented in order to impose the Israeli peace on the Arabs and expand the circle of hegemony against them, so hegemony will include everything in terms of land and people.

Rabin said: Whoever believes in the possibility of establishing peace with Syria while Israel keeps the entire Golan is deluded. This shows that Rabin is deliberately maneuvering and playing with words in a way that suggests that he supports Israel's withdrawal from some of the Golan. However, this deliberately undermines the peace process and poses a real threat to it. Moreover, this not only targets the peace process but also the pan-Arab and world awareness of what is taking place on the ground.

What we have said is confirmed by the fact that Rabin did not commit himself to full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. Out of conviction, we say: We will continue to give peace a chance and we will preserve the factors which secure the continuation of the peace process. This is because we are not deluded into believing that Rabin, Peres, or any of Israel's traditional Labor or Likud leaders want peace or seek peace inasmuch as they seek expansion, aggression, and hegemony.

We will continue to infuse new blood into the peace process and give it fresh momentum because we want to stress a historic fact that is mostly forgotten by the public opinion; namely, we have never been aggressors, but we have confronted aggression. We truly seek a just and comprehensive peace. Israel is the only state that does not have boundaries and does not want to have defined boundaries.

Whether the new opportunity—which is not yet secured, will succeed or fail, Syria will not depart from its constants and from the basic principles on which the peace process was established. Contrary to the Israeli wishes and irrespective of the Israeli achievements on more than one track, Syria will not relinquish an inch of land or any of its rights whether in terms of full withdrawal, reciprocal [mutabadal] or balanced [mutawazin] security, or any other arrangements or concepts, taking into account that aggression, and not peace, is what prevails today and that what is taking place in southern Lebanon or in the occupied Arab territories does not suggest that the atmosphere created by Israel is a peace atmosphere, as should be the case.

Hence, the United States has a basic role to play in the peace process, which has been frequently obstructed. The United States is now more aware of the regional facts than previously. If the Middle East is to be a stable region, then a decision regarding the peace process has to be made.

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Afghanistan

Taleban Criticizes Amnesty International Report

LD2904123695 Tehran IRNA in English 1218 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Apr. 29, IRNA—Afghan student militia, Taleban, has quashed the criticism of London based human rights group over the working of judicial courts operating under their command.

Mullah Abdor Rehman Zahid, Taleban's spokesman in Peshawar taking strong exception to the report of Amnesty International told IRNA that the judiciary in Taleban-controlled areas worked strictly according to "Islamic injunctions" and would never show leniency towards culprits.

Amnesty International in its recent report has urged Taleban courts to stop executions of criminals in their areas.

The report also called upon Taleban to provide information on the allegations that they had killed prisoners of wars including 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari, the slain leader of Hezb-e Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party].

Zahid did not comment on this part of the report.

Government Clears Southwestern Zone of Taleban

LD2804184995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a successful attack by the Mojahedin of the Islamic Army launched in the southwestern zone, a large area in the direction of Delaram was cleared of the pseudo-Taleban and 467 heavy and light weapons were taken as booty.

A security source reported to BAKHTAR that, in the course of a mopping-up operation, which was launched yesterday morning at 0500 hours by the forces of the Islamic Army and the Mojahedin, a large area in the southwestern zone was cleared of the pseudo-Taleban militia. The Army has advanced 30 kilometers in the enemy-held territory. In the course of this operation nine tanks, [words indistinct], 18 82mm artillery, 20 PK, 10 mortars, 30 Kalashnikovs, and a large amount of various ammunition, fuel, and foodstuffs, were seized by the Islamic Army forces. During this operation 90 militiamen were captured and dozens of others were killed. Ten men from the personnel of the Army were martyred and another 25 men were wounded.

The security source added that the enemy have lost their morale and are fleeing from their positions. The forces of the Islamic Army and Mojahedin continue their advances in the direction of Helmand Province.

Herat Forces Defeat Taleban in Southwest

LD2904172695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Afghan government sources report that General Isma'il Khan, the governor general of Herat, has scored victories against Taleban forces in the southwest region of the country.

The DAILY MUSLIM quoted General Azemi, one of the commanders in the southwest region, as saying that fighting began Thursday [27 April] over Farahrud and Dasht-e-Farahrud area and ended yesterday afternoon when the area was fully captured by government forces. Taleban have now been pushed back 140 km from Herat.

General Azemi also claimed that in the two days of fighting 52 tanks, 80 armored vehicles, and 10 artillery pieces were captured by forces loyal to [President] Rabbani.

Fighting Resumes in Maydan Shar With Taleban

LD2904144595 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fighting has again resumed in the country's southwestern region between the forces of Kabul administration and Taleban.

According to a independent source, the fighting started yesterday around Shindand airport and in Maydan Shar which caused heavy loss of life and material.

A source from the Kabul administration says that their forces have begun mopping-up operation yesterday morning against Taleban in Delaram and Farah Province, as a result of which 90 Taleban were captured and dozens others were either killed or injured.

The source added that their forces were advancing towards Helmand. The forces of Kabul administration were also defending their positions in Herat. The source says that this operation which has been started by the initiative of Isma'il Khan, the areas of [words indistinct] were cleared of the Taleban. Ten men from the forces of Kabul administration were killed and another 25 men were wounded. The Kabul administration also says that a number of Taleban attacked their positions from Maydan Shar. Taleban, however, rejects these claims made by Kabul administration and says that their forces gained enormous victories in the country's southwestern zone.

Taleban Spokesman: 'Huge' Attack on Kabul Planned

LD2904203095 Tehran IRNA in English 1949 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, April 29, IRNA—The Taleban militia group said on Saturday [29 April] it planned to launch attacks against the Afghan capital of Kabul and positions held by government forces around the city after 'Id al-Adha (feast of the sacrifice) on May 10.

A spokesman for the Taleban group in Quetta, Pakistan, Mowlavi Ma'sum Afghani, said the Taleban leadership has called on its commanders in other Afghan provinces to take part in the huge offensive by sending troops to Qandahar.

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The militia whose aims and its sudden burst on the Afghan scene are clouded in deep suspicion, has repeatedly threatened to attack Kabul, but its attack on the capital two months ago, ended in failure.

Early in March, Taleban militiamen were flushed out of the southern and southwestern outskirts of Kabul. Since then, the war front had moved to Logar and Vardak provinces south and west of the capital.

Despite its Islamic claims the Taleban group has indulged in the most unislamic acts, the latest of which was the killing in captivity of famous Afghan mojahedin leader 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari early this year.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mazari, who was a memorizer of the Holy Koran belonged to the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party].

Meanwhile, Afghan Government officials say that following the latest developments, Kabul is no longer a possible target for the anti-government rocket attacks. In the past month, the troops of President Borhanoddin Rabbani have reinforced their positions around Kabul, they said.

Analysts rule out any possibility of a successful attack by Talebans against pro-Rabbani forces on the two battle fronts.

Fighting has been reported between the two parties in Farah province western Afghanistan.

India

Rao Addresses Missile Program, National Issues

BK2804155595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has asserted that the government's economic policies are aimed at giving a major push to reduce poverty and unemployment. Replying to the three-day debate on the motion of thanks to the president for his address to the joint session of Parliament in the Lok Sabha today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the uplift of poor is an article of faith with the government. Refuting the criticism that economic policies are against the interests of the country, he said even chief ministers of the non-Congress-I governments are inviting foreign investment in their states which is necessary for industrial growth. The prime minister asserted that domestic industries have not suffered because of foreign investment and there is no discrimination between local industrialists and foreign investors.

On Jammu and Kashmir, the prime minister said he will come before the House with clear-cut proposals on reviving the political process in the state.

Referring to the persistent demand for the repeal of TADA [Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Act], Mr. Rao said the home minister is consulting the opposition parties on various options and the government will come up with necessary legislation. He said that India is trying its best to improve relations with our neighbors.

On the price situation, Mr. Rao said steps are being taken to ensure that maximum benefit reaches the consumers and producers of foodgrains.

On Agni [2,500 km long-range surface-to-surface missile] and Prithvi [250 km short-range surface-to-surface missile] programs, he declared that there is no question of succumbing to outside pressure to delay or compromise on India's requirements.

Referring to the coming New Delhi SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation] summit, Mr. Rao said the preferential trade agreement SAPTA [South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement] will be initiated by the member nations this year.

Army Organizes First Prithvi Missile Unit

BK3004095095 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 29 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Pravin Sawhney: "Army raises Prithvi group"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, April 28—The raising of the first unit of the Indian Army with Prithvi missiles, called 333 Missile Group, is complete. Some of the best officers have been inducted into the group.

In a written statement in Parliament the minister of state for defence, Mr Mallikarjun, said on Thursday [27 April] that user trials of Prithvi system have been completed and subsequent activities are progressing. His statement confirms the raising of the group production of warheads and related subsystems for the missiles.

Raised in Hyderabad, the 333 Missile Group has 12 Prithvi launchers distributed in three subunits of four launchers each. The unit has been given an unspecified number of conventional monolith warheads. Meant to cover a frontage of 250 km, the unit is awaiting orders to move to 11 corps area under Western Command against Pakistan.

The delay in the movement to an operational location is attributed to the government's dithering under intense American pressure. Once the 333 Missile Group firms up in its actual location, it will be difficult to disguise its existence. The need to hide the 333 Missile Group has not gone well with the morale of the unit and the issue was unanimously taken up by senior commanders with the Prime Minister during the recent Army commanders conference.

The operational role of the Prithvi unit will be "harassment and disruption in a tactical battle area" to put psychological pressure on the enemy. As most of the enemy's corps maintainence areas, divisional logistics and concentration areas will come within the range of the Prithvis, it will be forced to disperse its assets

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resulting in time lags crucial in any offensive operation. Prithvis were inducted into the army after the artillery was satisfied with two modifications done by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory.

SAARC Summit To Begin in Delhi 2 May

BK2704052195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The New Delhi SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit opening on Tuesday [2 May] next week is expected to formally approve operation of the SAPTA [South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement]. The list of commodities for preferential trade amongst the member nations have already been cleared by the intergovernmental committee at its recent meeting at Kathmandu. Poverty alleviation and environment protection are also expected to be high on the agenda of the summit.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the program committee of SAARC met in two sessions in New Delhi yesterday to discuss the report of the committee on audiovisual exchange program and the integrated program of action for cooperation in several areas. These include agriculture, communication, education, rural development, and science and technology. The standing committee and the food security committee of SAARC are slated to meet today.

Pakistani Minister Comments

BK3004105895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan will raise the Kashmir issue in bilateral talks between President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao during the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] summit.

Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali told the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA upon his arrival in New Delhi last evening that Kashmir is at the top of our agenda. He said Islamabad has requested bilateral talks between President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, during which Pakistan will raise the Kashmir issue. He said along with Kashmir, Pakistan also wants to focus on the other major irritants affecting relations between New Delhi and Islamabad. Kashmir is the foremost issue and must be settled before the two countries can go on to other issues.

He said Pakistan is committed to the cause of SAARC and wants the forum to work. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto could not attend the SAARC summit because of a heavy schedule at home.

Commentary Previews Summit

BK0105141295 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 1 May 95

[Commentary by Shastri Ramachandran]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The 10th anniversary of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, promises to be a milestone opening the way to rewarding new vistas in economic development and growth. The eighth summit of the seven-nation SAARC, beginning in New Delhi on 2 May, will mark a qualitative leap with the launching of the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement, known as SAPTA. This initiative of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives could well serve as the much-needed impetus for hastening greater economic cooperation between the member countries.

The summit, to be attended by heads of government or state of all member countries, is now firmly united in the resolve to work for concrete economic objectives through new instruments that will encourage capital flows and trade markets in the region. Eventually, this could lead to more advanced forms of economic cooperation like a customs union, a common market, or even a common currency. Such cooperation in one form or another already exists, with the European Union; the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, APEC, agreement; and North American Free Trade Association, NAFTA, being a few of the more successful examples. Such a regional response in South Asia was in a sense inevitable given the new challenges of the international trading system in the wake of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations which has culminated in the establishment of the World Trade Organization, WTO. Hence it is not surprising that SAARC has moved to be in step with the demands of globalization. But what is significant is that the familiar and well-known political differences between prominent members of SAARC have not been allowed to remain a stumbling block to common needs and shared aspirations of economic growth and development. This underscores the rise of a new self-confidence of political maturity, particularly among the smaller and less developed SAARC member countries, to work toward the radically altered trade regime in the region.

Preparations for the summit, which has fixed 8 December 1995 as the date for SAPTA to become operational, have been intensive at various levels. Beginning with the meeting of the intergovernmental group in Kathmandu in the last week of April, the presummit exercises conclude on 1 May after a two-day session of the foreign ministers of SAARC countries in New Delhi. The Kathmandu meeting achieved the initial breakthrough by finalizing the list of commodities for duty concessions among member countries. This was followed by deliberations on 27-28 April at the level of foreign secretaries who comprised the Standing Committee. It was this committee that expressed confidence about 8 December being acceptable as a deadline for launching the SAPTA.

All the seven member countries exchanged the schedule of items in which they would like to trade before the meeting of the foreign ministers for a formal endorsement of the list. India's minister for external affairs, Mr.

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Pranab Mukherjee, was elected chairman of the SAARC Council of Ministers, which is to hold a special session on the theme: Vision for the Second Decade. Mr. Mukherjee, soon after he took charge of the chairmanship, called upon the nations of the region to develop into an effective vehicle for collective self- reliance so that the area did not remain a backwater at the dawn of the new century. He pointed out that the region have the resources, people, talent, and capabilities to ensure ambitious cooperation which should be at a faster pace.

Apart from the formal launching of SAPTA, which is a high- priority item on the agenda, the summit will focus on a range of issues to eradicate poverty. In what constitutes a follow-up to the United Nations Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen in March this year, the SAARC session will designate 1995 as the Year for Poverty Eradication. The summit will adopt an agenda for action which will include a strategy for social mobilization, policy of decentralized agricultural development, and labor-intensive industrialization in the small-scale sector. The thrust toward concrete trading arrangements is proof that the change taking place in the rest of the world has had its impact on the South Asian region as well. In this new climate, SAARC has taken the first major step to establish that henceforth it will be geoeconomic and not geopolitical considerations that will be dominant in the region.

Iran

Reportage, Reaction to Clinton's Severing of Ties

Clinton's Remarks Reported

LD0105103095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton, speaking at a banquet given by the U.S. Zionists Congress in New York last night, raised some points on severing economic ties with Iran.

Clinton, accompanied by the Zionist regime's Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, adopted a disgraceful [monfa'elaneh] stand when he announced that he will sever economic links with Iran. It is necessary to point out that three weeks ago the esteemed president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, announced in his strong statement that economic ties with some U.S. firms have no value to Iran.

Clinton, who declared that the actions and policies adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the face of the trend toward compromise in the Middle East are contrary to Washington's policies, said: The objective of these measures is to confront Iran's opposition to peace in the Middle East.

Clinton also expressed his displeasure with the failure of U.S. efforts to persuade Russia to abandon cooperation with Iran by trying to supply Iran with nuclear energy, said when addressing the Zionists Congress that during his visit to Moscow he will try to persuade Russia to cancel the economic cooperation agreement with Iran in this field.

Confrontation With U.S. 'Inevitable'

NC0105074395 Paris AFP in English 0655 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 1 (AFP)—A military confrontation with the United States is inevitable and Iranian forces must be ready for war, the head of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards Mohsen Reza'i was quoted as saying Monday [1 May].

The warning, reported in the daily Jomhuri-ye Eslami, came as US President Bill Clinton announced a trade and economic embargo against the Islamic republic.

"All the evidence show that the United States is preparing for an all-out war against Iran," Reza'i told a group of Revolutionary Guard commanders and officials.

"All the military forces and Basijis (voluntary militia) should prepare themselves for this combat ... because a confrontation with the United States is inevitable," he said.

"The Americans continue their provocations (against Iran) but we have not still said our last word to them," the commander said. "One day we will launch a decisive offensive against them and the commanders of the armed forces should be ready."

Iranian officials, apprehensive about the US's massive military presence in the region, have several times in the past months raised the possibility of a military confrontation with the United States.

But it was the first time such an eventuality was evoked so explicitly and at a such a high level, according to observers.

The statement comes amid intense efforts by the United States since the beginning of the year to isolate Iran politically and economically.

Commentary Addresses New Sanctions

LD0105131895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 1 May 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. President, Bill Clinton, in a passive position, two weeks after the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a statement—and at a dinner banquet of the Jewish World Congregation in New York, announced that the U.S. will enforce new vast measures against Iran.

Political analysts believe that this announcement by the President of the U.S. is in line with a series of measures

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which the White House has taken to force the Islamic Republic of Iran to compromise with the U.S. hegemonistic policies.

Evaluating the effects of such embargoes, informed observers underline three fundamental points. First, the set of infrastructural measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran during the first five year development plan has ushered in the country to successful level of domestic products. The U.S. embargoes are, therefore, rather ineffective or with superficial and controllable impacts.

The heroic and resistant people of Iran, in the (?wake) of the Islamic revolution, when the country's economic fiber had been disrupted on account of the problems suffered in the course of the victory of the Islamic revolution, have (?survived) the U.S. sanctions successfully. The U.S. could not reap benefit from these embargoes.

At the present stage, when Iran has taken the most important infrastructural measures in the country's economy in the field of energy production and the construction of roads and factories for manufacturing the materials required by the country, such embargoes cannot, therefore, bring about any results for Washington.

The second point that must be kept in mind in connection with the U.S. sanctions against Iran relates to the difference of opinion between U.S. companies and the government of that country and the [words indistinct] to the consonance between the U.S. and the Zionists. These companies, which mostly think of their own interest (?which they will lose) in the Iranian market, are pressuring the Clinton administration into reconsidering its decision. They are also worried that the continuing consonance between Washington and Tel Aviv in opposing the Islamic Republic of Iran will entail the loss of further markets by U.S. companies in the Middle East. This matter has currently turned into one of the main problems plaguing the U.S. ruling clique.

The third subject which has drawn the attention of the observers of Clinton's executive order on the economic boycott of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerns the rivalry which currently exists among different countries. In international trade, there does not exist any total monopoly of markets and basic needs can be easily met with substitute goods.

In view of the foregoing cases, one can conclude that the announcement of fresh U.S. sanctions by President Clinton will help further reveal the hegemonistic character of America without having any significant effect on the Iranian economy.

Second Tripartite Meeting Held With Greece, Bosnia

Velayati Confers With Greek Counterpart

LD2904101995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest developments in the Bosnian crisis were reviewed in a meeting today between the foreign ministers of Greece and the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran.

The Greek foreign minister, in Tehran for the second tripartite meeting among Iran, Greece, and Bosnia, expressed his pleasure over the results of the first tripartite meeting in Athens, and declared the Tehran meeting to be crucial, bearing in mind the expiration of the cease-fire in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Karolos Papoulias stressed: Europe is concerned over the continuation of the crisis in the Balkans, and Iran's diplomacy regarding the Balkan crisis is considered in Europe to be most important. The Greek foreign minister also stressed Iran's effective and positive role in assisting with the establishment of peace and tranquillity in the Balkans.

At the meeting, Mr. Velayati, elaborating on Iran's efforts for a just resolution of the Bosnian issue, said: Despite the existing sensitivities, difficulties, and obstacles, any achievements by the tripartite meeting in Tehran will be of great importance.

During their meeting, the Greek and Iranian foreign ministers stressed the need for the establishment of a cease-fire which results in a just, honorable, and permanent peace in the Balkans.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic arrived in Tehran this morning to participate in the tripartite meeting.

Velayati Meets Bosnian Minister

LD2904102795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic arrived in Tehran this afternoon to participate in the second meeting of the foreign ministers of Greece, Bosnia, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He was welcomed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

On his arrival, in an interview with our correspondent, the Bosnian foreign minister spoke about recent developments in Bosnia- Herzegovina and said that he is in Tehran to take part in the tripartite meeting. He expressed the hope for the results of the meeting to have a positive effect on the developments of the region.

Foreign Minister Velayati, announcing that the second tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers in Tehran is capable of having a significant effect for establishing a cease-fire in the Balkans, pointed out that the European representative for the settlement of the Bosnian issue, David Owen, has discussed his points of view with Greek officials on the establishment of a cease-fire. Velayati said: Because of the crucial timing of the meeting its results will be most decisive. He expressed the hope that a lasting and honorable cease-fire will be established in the Balkans.

'Optimism' Expressed Over Progress

NC2904161395 Athens Elliniki Radhiofonia Radio Network in Greek 1500 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The talks between Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias and his Iranian and Bosnian

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counterparts, 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Irfan Ljubijankic respectively, opened in Tehran today as part of the Greek Government's initiative to revive the search for a solution to the Bosnian crisis.

At the beginning of the talks, the Bosnian foreign minister stressed that once the Contact Group's plans have been accepted by the Bosnian Government and by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, pressure must be put on Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, so that he also accepts it.

Mr. Papoulias and his Iranian counterpart expressed optimism over the possibility of enough progress to allow the extension of the cease-fire. In any case, the Bosnian foreign minister described as productive the tripartite Greek-Iranian-Bosnian meeting held in Athens in March, and expressed his thanks to Papoulias and Velayati for the services they are rendering.

Earlier the Greek foreign minister had a private meeting with his Iranian counterpart; this evening he will meet with Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. After this meeting, Mr. Papoulias will attend a dinner with the ambassadors of all the Balkan countries in Tehran, the ambassadors of the countries participating in the Contact Group on the Bosnian issue, and the representatives of the Islamic Conference's contact group on the Bosnian issue.

Rafsanjani Meets Foreign Ministers

LD2904190695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received the foreign ministers of Greece and Bosnia-Herzegovina who are participating in a tripartite session in Tehran. At the meeting, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed anxiety about the possible resumption of war in the Bosnia-Herzegovina region and said: The resumption of war will not only not be to anyone's advantage, but will make things more difficult and cause more damage in that region. Stressing the point that the fighting will have no winner or loser, he described the possible resumption of fighting as totally illogical and dangerous adventurism.

The president added: There is no doubt that the majority of the people of the world have no wish to see the continuation of this great human tragedy. Everyone—the contact group with Europe and all effective members and organizations, and the UN forces—must strive to prevent the resumption of war, bloodshed, and ruin in the Balkans region.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to continue to send humanitarian assistance to Bosnia- Herzegovina within the framework of international regulations, and he spoke of the need to pursue the talks in Tehran seriously. He expressed hope about the outcome of the talks in Tehran and conveyed his support for the talks.

At the meeting, which was also attended by Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, the foreign minister of Bosnia- Herzegovina said that the decision to hold the Tehran session was a source of hope for the Bosnian people. He added: We are seeking to achieve peace and we are pleased about our presence in Iran and about Iran's special role in the talks as an important and powerful country. He expressed gratitude for the continued political and humanitarian assistance extended by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and said: Although the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina wish to live in peace and in a safe and secure environment, they are not prepared to accept the violation of and encroachments onto their rights.

The Greek foreign minister, for his part, described the relations between the countries as friendly. He added: In view of the friendly and strong ties between Greece and Iran, these two countries can play a successful mediation role in the Balkan region. Addressing our country's president, he also said: Your eminence's valuable experience during the imposed war of Iraq against Iran and your knowledge of the damage resulting from it, as well as your clear minded ideas in this regard, give us the hope that, with Iran's assistance, we can witness the emergence of positive results from the talks and the establishment of a lasting peace in the region.

Mr. Velayati briefed the president at the meeting about the intense talks conducted at the tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran, Greece, and Bosnia-Herzegovina in Tehran. He added: These talks will continue today and tomorrow in Tehran with the aim of achieving a positive outcome.

Majles Speaker Receives Greek Minister

LD3004110695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting today with Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, the Iranian Majles speaker spoke about the West's poisoned propaganda against Iran. He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a victim of chemical weapons and a signatory to the agreement prohibiting weapons of mass destruction, but it is being accused of trying to obtain such weapons. The Zionist regime, however, is not considered a threat despite the fact that it is producing these weapons and has clearly refused to sign the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

The Majles speaker thanked the Greek parliament for its stance in European and international gatherings and hoped that Tehran's tripartite meeting on Bosnia-Herzegovina will be an important and effective step toward the establishment of peace.

In turn, the Greek foreign minister hoped that the tripartite meeting in Tehran will help establish peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He described relations between Iran and Greece as good and said that Greece has always defended Iran and defended its just stances.

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Bosnia Agrees To Continue Cease-Fire

LD3004103095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic has announced his agreement to continue the cease-fire in Bosnia. This statement was announced after two-days of intense negotiations between the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Greece in Tehran.

The Bosnian foreign minister said that as long as the Serbs do not attack Bosnian forces, the most recent cease-fire will continue to stand. It was also decided that the foreign ministers of Iran and Greece will continue their efforts to end the Balkan crisis and to follow up events through both the Islamic and Western Contact Groups until conditions for a just peace are prepared.

Joint News Conference Held

NC3004201795 Athens Elliniki Radhiofonia Radio Network in Greek 1130 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Greece has achieved a significant diplomatic success in Tehran. At a joint news conference with his Greek counterpart, Karolos Papoulias and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic said that the forces of his faction will not attack nor will they open fire first after tomorrow's expiration of the four-month truce in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The three foreign ministers pointed out at their joint news conference in Tehran today that both this meeting and their previous one contribute to the rapprochement of the belligerent factions in Bosnia-Herzegovina. According to the ATHENS NEWS AGENCY's special correspondent in Tehran, the Iranian foreign minister stressed that Greece has become a significant factor in its region and everyone should consult with it. Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati noted that this tripartite conference in Tehran had decided that additional measures should be taken and their implementation will be associated with the decisions of the Contact Group on the Yugoslav issue. As is known, this group consists of representatives from the five big powers.

Responding to questions from journalists, the three foreign ministers made it clear that the efforts of the tripartite conference does not consist of opening up channels other than those which already exist for a solution to the Bosnian issue. On the contrary, their efforts are considered helpful to the efforts of the Contact Group.

Mr. Papoulias recalled that one of the specific results of the previous meeting of the three foreign ministers was Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's contact with the Bosnian ambassador to Switzerland, Mr. Filipovic. The Greek foreign minister stressed that the specific results of both tripartite meetings will appear soon.

Mr. Papoulias, who is now flying back to Athens, announced before his departure from Tehran that he will contact the Serbian leaders tonight and he will visit Belgrade very soon.

*Inflation, Funds Transfer to Nonproduction Viewed

95LA0179I Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 16 Mar 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Attracting useless currency in circulation and guiding loose capital into the productive sector depends on implementing well considered economic policies. An aggregate of factors such as the lack of security for investment, tax pressures, and other things have made the owners of the currency in circulation uninterested in investing in the productive sector and is leading them to activity in the excessive services sector. The owners of the currency in circulation have gradually come to the conclusion that it is not necessary to put their capital into the dangerous area of production, where to make progress taxes have to be paid, one must confront the problem of personnel, and a thousand other large and small obstacles must be removed. The spread of such thinking creates conditions where capital flows rapidly into useless and sometimes destructive activities.

Productive investment requires prior conditions. The mere fact that currency in circulation is available and certain infrastructure work has been done is no assurance that private sector investment will go into production and constructive activity. For production to flourish, many fundamental problems must be solved in the area of investment. Many owners of capital prefer to put their financial resources into productive and lasting activities instead of in the broker market. Although using capital in the broker market and for the repositioning of goods, foreign exchange, and coins multiplies capital several times over in a short time, some owners of capital view this market as a temporary one. This very instability can be an important factor for drawing capital into production.

However, this change of course from broker activity to production requires preparation and taking certain measures. With a comparison that is not that profound, the owners of currency in circulation realize that in the productive occupations the factory owner must pay taxes in view of the visibility of immovable assets and the specific levels in all of these areas. Even if there were people among the industrial owners who wanted to avoid paying taxes, these people do not have the means for concealment that exist for those in the broker sector. In the major transactions for foreign exchange, coins, and the movement of goods, there is no trail of buyer and seller and essentially no taxes of any kind can be imposed on hidden transactions. Concerning the payment of taxes, industrial owners are like wage earners compared

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to those active on the black market, of course with the difference that their incomes are greater than those with fixed incomes.

Middlemen do not pay taxes, but those working in productive and producing occupations must pay the taxes imposed whether they like it or not. Under these circumstances, a factory considers the payment of taxes to be an imposition, and since it will have to pay taxes constantly if it is to continue operating, it is not enthusiastic about production. The answer to the mystery of abandoned factories is right here.

Those working in productive activities face many problems in the course of their work, especially the problem of manpower. In many cases these problems slow activity at a productive unit to the point of stopping. An industrial employer has the duty of seeing to the material and spiritual needs of his personnel. Those active in the black market and in brokerage are not at all concerned with these problems.

Public Participation and Economic Health

The financial resources needed by the government to carry out large infrastructure and production projects can be procured in several ways, but the experts emphasize the use of projects where there is more public participation. Concerning the question of how to procure appropriate financial resources needed by the government, Dr. Bahman Arman, economic analyst, says:

To procure their own finances, the governments in other countries engage in social borrowing. In other words they procure their financial resources by reducing society's buying power through borrowing. This tool is usually called public and national borrowing. The issuance of bonds by governments is the primary way of procuring financial resources for governments, whether directly or indirectly. For example, to carry out special projects, governments issue public bonds instead of borrowing from the banking system or increasing the budget deficit by issuing currency notes.

In this last instance, the project to build a very large dam in China has begun, and the government, lacking the financial resources to build this dam, has issued bonds. In most European countries the financial resources for infrastructure projects such as railroads and freeways are obtained through bond issues.

Recently, following the earthquake in the city of Kobe, Japan, the government of this country, to rebuild the earthquake-stricken region, issued bonds instead of issuing currency notes thus preserving the value of the nation's money. For this reason, the value of Japan's money not only did not decrease despite the destructive earthquake in Kobe, but it increased against the dollar. The Government of Japan took this step though it has the world's largest foreign exchange reserve of $125 billion. This is 10 times Iran's annual net revenues.

New Public Participation

One economist in our country believes that because bonds are considered usurious in Iran and because of the lack of the needed cooperation between the Center for Regional Studies and the university, in the 14 years since the triumph of the Islamic revolution the very important tool of public bonds, which could have taken us out of the current crisis on a grand scale, was not used.

Finally, however, after a study on the use of public bonds as a method of public participation, they were used extensively. The sale of bonds for the Navab Highway Project by the municipality heralds the renewal of extensive public participation, and according to the insiders, the results were very successful. The day before yesterday it was announced that the buyers of bonds for the Navab Highway Project can report to the relevant centers to collect the profit on their participation. Dr. Arman said in this regard:

The first signs of the use of public bonds appeared in the city of Tehran. Of course the amount, which was R75 billion [rials], was quite limited—compared to the R55,000 billion in currency in circulation in the country—so that it could not have tangible effects on the inflation in the domestic market.

He discussed the need to make use of appropriate tools to attract extensive public participation. He said: The way the public thinks and looks at things must be altered. To make use of such a tool, one may work on the public culture and attract their attention, but unfortunately the government has not been active in this area. You know of several companies that have been registered through public participation. What percentage of the companies are public corporations? All of these things show that we have not used the tool of public participation. The government must now reduce its intervention in the economic system.

The government must obtain the financial resources for large infrastructure projects not by borrowing from the banking system and printing currency notes, but through bonds. If the government determines that it is necessary to create projects and to build the Persian Gulf Highway, which will connect Qom to Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni, there is no need for it to borrow from the banking system to procure the financial resources for this project or to increase the monetary base by increasing currency notes. Rather the government, like in other countries, can carry out this project with public participation.

These measure will mean that the government will not engage directly in creating money, and when it does not create money, naturally the inflationary pressures will be reduced. The issuance of public participation bonds in the current circumstances of a country like Iran will mean making the best use of existing financial resources. When financial resources are directed into productive projects and the government also feels that it has no need to issue currency notes, ultimately troublesome money

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will be gathered from within the system. We will then be able to hope for a lower rate of inflation with internal roots, because to some extent the rate of inflation is due to international price increases, although some inflation has domestic causes and no foreign factor can cause the price of automobiles to increase 2.5 times in a short time. The cause of such a situation is useless currency in circulation. Therefore, the way to control this inflation is through the control of currency in circulation.

*Shipping Company Head Discusses Business

95LA0179D Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Mar 95 p 2

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Mahmud Farhang Tarjoman, chairman of the Board of Directors and executive director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company, by unidentified KEYHAN correspondent on 14 March; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] This year the ships of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company transported 13.8 million tons of goods, earning more than $400 million in foreign exchange revenues. When this figure is added to the $700 million in fees earned for carrying imported goods into the country, the revenues exceed $1.1 billion.

Yesterday Mahmud Farhang Tarjoman, chairman of the Board of Directors and Executive Director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company, gave an exclusive interview to our correspondent on performance for the last 11 months by the vessels of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company in the transport of goods and passengers. He said: This year the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company's 11 various passenger and freight vessels competed significantly with their rivals internationally and achieved certain successes. He added: In the last 11 months a total of 3 million tons of Iranian goods has been exported.

Tarjoman added: In addition to the foreign exchange revenues, with the measures that have been taken this year, 17 percent of the current expenses of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company has been cut. He said: The transport of imported goods into the country by the shipping company has saved $700 million in foreign exchange. I must add that in the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995], the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company paid huge amounts of taxes into the government treasury on its foreign exchange revenues.

He noted that even now 70 percent of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company's personnel on the sea are domestic manpower. He said: This year measures have been taken so that 600,000 shipping parts will be obtained from the country's domestic sources. Likewise production will begin next year for naval paint and oil, with the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company, the nation's paint-making and oil-making industries, and a foreign company. When this is done, millions of dollars in foreign exchange will be kept from leaving the country every year.

He said: At the same time we have reached agreements with large ship repair companies to create a ship repair yard on Iran's shores, and this will earn significant foreign exchange for the country.

He added: The first contract has been signed with the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company to ship 300,000 tons of cotton from Turkmenistan to Europe and the nations of the Far East, and this shipping will be done next year. Likewise this year the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company's Communications Division, in cooperation with the Telephone Company, has been connected to the International Information Superhighway. In the next two years this measure will reduce the shipping company's expenses by 10 percent.

Concerning the purchase of ships, he said: Next year it is on the agenda of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company to buy two catamaran passenger ships capable of traveling at 32 nautical knots.

He said the number of passengers transported from Iran's ports is 120,000. He added: Last year 130,000 [as published] people traveled on Iran's passenger ships to the nations of the Persian Gulf.

He discussed the shipping company's plans for the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: By the end of the Second Five-Year Plan 40 new ships must replace existing ships in the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company. For this purpose we have signed a contract with China for four ships, and we will buy four to eight ships from Croatia. It is on our agenda to buy four ships with capacities of 70,000 to 100,000 tons. If authorization to buy these ships is issued by the Economic Council, these ships will be added to the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company's shipping fleet in the first three months of the year 1374 [21 March-31 June 1995].

He added: The cost of buying these ships will be met entirely through the shipping company's revenues, and nothing will be imposed on the government's budget.

He added: Unfortunately, currently the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company cannot operate independently, and this has a significant effect on the failure to cut costs in this sector of the nation's transportation and shipping industry. He added: If the restrictions are removed, the shipping company's vessels will be able to operate better and more extensively internationally.

He noted: Next year the ECO Shipping Company will begin operating. In this regard the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company has begun transferring several ships to the ECO Shipping Company.

Tarjoman discussed the privatization of shipping in the country. He said: Government control of shipping caused capital in the private sector to go to shipping brokers. If the private sector is given a free hand in this

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regard, sound competition will be created and the result of that will be the advancement of the nation's shipping internationally.

Activities of Natural Resources General Office

95LA0179A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Mar 95 p 12

[Report on interview by Engineer Koruzhdehi, general manager of natural resources for Sistan va Baluchestan Province, by unidentified correspondent "during the first week of Natural Resources Week" in Zahedan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Zahedan—JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI—During the first week of Natural Resources Week [as published], Eng Koruzhdehi, general manager of natural resources for Sistan va Baluchestan Province, gave an interview to our correspondent. He discussed the activities and the measures to be taken by this office up to the end of the First Five-Year Plan.

He began his remarks by discussing the province's geographical position. He said: The Province of Sistan va Baluchestan, with an area of 181,578 square km, has a dry climate with little rainfall and a range of more than 20 degrees centigrade between its highest and lowest temperatures. There is little rainfall, with an average of less than 100 millimeters.

Continuing, he discussed the situation with the province's renewable natural resources. He said: The forests in the province are scattered, found mostly on the banks of rivers and in the province's plains areas. The province has almost 1.5 million hectares [hc] of forest, and its greatest role is in stabilizing and balancing the region's ecosystem.

Pastures are also especially important, in view of the size of the province, and most of the feed needed by livestock is obtained from these pastures, which occupy an area of about 11.8 million hc. Due to the climactic conditions, however, most of the province's pastures are poor and not very productive.

In view of this reality, the General Office of Natural Resources has undertaken to modify and revive the province's pastures. Measures have been taken to procure and implement pasture-keeping projects, with the participation of livestock keepers and the transfer of deeds to them. This has caused greater public participation in the revival and modification of pastures.

Regarding soil preservation, Eng Koruzhdehi added: In view of the province's climate, the problems of overuse and drifting sand must receive attention as a very important principle. To preserve telephone lines, installations, and residential sites in the rural areas and on agricultural land, it is necessary to give priority to soil preservation projects in the province.

He listed the measures taken for soil preservation, including planting saplings on an area of 36,000 hc, spreading seeds over an area of 74,000 hc, spreading mulch over an area of 300 hc, producing 2,700 saplings, and collecting 865 tons of seeds. He added: In view of the factors and limitations in the province, agriculture alone cannot answer the region's needs, and the people are obliged to do other things along with the agriculture, including animal husbandry. Since the province's tribal and rural population is a significant percentage of its population and since most of its activity is agricultural, it will be hurt the most if attention is not given to modifying and reviving its pastures.

Based on this necessity and other parameters, the General Office of Natural Resources has given emphasis to reviving desert pastures to produce the feed needed by livestock, and it has brought a large area of land into the purview of pasture-keeping projects.

Activities that have been carried out in the pasture-keeping sector include setting up pasture-keeping projects over an area off 576,000 hc, transferring 256,000 hc of pasture in the framework of pasture-keeping projects, modifying and reviving pastures through the planting of shrubbery on 11,000 acres and through storing precipitation, and spreading seeds over 58,000 hc.

Continuing, the general manager of natural resources for the Province of Sistan va Baluchestan said: Since 80 percent of the province's pastures are in tribal areas and 20 percent are on the outskirts of villages, the capacity of the pastures has been very low, and this itself has been destructive, ultimately causing the deserts to expand.

He said that the General Office of Natural Resources has done work in the forest sector by planting forests over 40,000 hc, producing 16,000 saplings, planting trees as wind breakers along 2,800 kilometers of agricultural field edges, building a forest park, and planting trees along 8,352 kilometers of roads.

He added: The province has good potential, and maximum use must be made of this potential through careful planning and specific projects. In this way the face of the province can be changed and the province's livelihood situation can be transformed.

The plains areas with good agricultural potential such as Delgan, Jelgeh, Zarabad, Pishin, Bahukalat, Dashtyari, Dasht-e Moradabad, Suran, and other areas with potential in Sistan must be put to use by implementing projects with public participation.

In this regard the General Office of Natural Resources has announced its willingness to sign contracts with the public for the purpose of investing in these areas with potential. Within the framework of Preservation Article 3, individuals can act as revival executors for the General Office of Natural Resources. By taking over land, they can engage in agricultural activities such as planting feed, fish farming, and orchard keeping.

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At the end of his talk Engineer Koruzhdehi expressed the hope that the dear people of the Province of Sistan va Baluchestan will be happy taking these constructive and effective steps to revive natural resources and that more constructive efforts will be made to make the province's natural areas and watersheds green.

Average Prices for Land, Buildings in Tehran

95LA0179F Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Mar 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] The report on the average price of land, buildings, and rent in Tehran and other municipalities in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] has been published.

Based on the report, Housing Economy Bulletin, the average sale price of one square meter of foundation for a housing unit in Tehran in the year 1372 was 516,000 [no monetary unit as published], the average rent for one square of housing was 2,447 rials [R], and the average price of one square meter of land was about R480.

This bulletin, printed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Planning and Housing Economics, adds: Throughout Tehran, the average price of housing units, apartments, and villas has increased 11.4, 6.9, and 20.4 percent, respectively.

This report adds: In the years 1370 to 1372 [21 March 1991-20 March 1994], the average price indicator in Tehran and its rate of growth shows that the rate of growth in housing prices has been less than that of the general level of prices.

In the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], the rate of growth was 17 percent. In the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] there was 2.5-percent negative growth, and in the year 1372 the rate of growth was 11.4 percent, which is much lower than the rate of growth for prices in general.

Regarding rent prices, this report says that in the year 1372 the average rent for one square meter of housing, whether a villa or an apartment, was R2,447 in the city of Tehran. The lowest rate of rent for a square meter of space was in region 18 at R1,690, and the highest rate was in region 3 at R3,708.

Regarding the price of land, this report says that in the year 1372 the average price of one square meter of land in the city of Tehran was about R480,000, and in the fall and winter of that year the rates were recorded at R460,000 and R500,000, respectively.

In the year being reported, the average difference in the price of land in the various regions of the city of Tehran was very great, ranging from the minimum of R264,000 for one square meter in region 18 to a maximum of R846,000 for region 3.

Increase in Oil Consumption Threatens Country

95LA0179J Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Mar 95 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] Economics Division—The deputy minister of oil and executive director of the National Refining and Distribution Company said: The country's annual consumption of oil products has increased 8-10 percent . If this continues, in the next 15 years we will have nothing to export. Continued excessive consumption will reduce oil revenues and will ultimately pose a severe threat to the country's future.

Mr. Fathinezhad spoke yesterday at a seminar on "Economizing on Energy Consumption and Familiarity with Advanced Technology." In announcing the above, he said: To economize on the nation's energy consumption, prices of various types of fuel must be increased in accordance with Paragraph B Note 16 of the Second Five-Year Plan.

He said the nation's consumption capacity for oil products is 1.5 million barrels per day. He said: The capacity of the nation's refineries has also increased to 1.4 million barrels per day, with a doubling of capacity compared to five years ago.

It is necessary to mention that this seminar is being held at the Iran National Oil Refining and Distribution Company and will last three days. During the seminar ways to economize on energy will be discussed and studied.

Pakistan

Army Officer Arrested for Passing Data to U.S.

PK3004093595 Karachi DAWN in English 30 Apr 95 p 20

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, April 29—US State Department sources on Friday [28 April] offered no comment on reports in Pakistan that an army officer had been arrested by the military authorities for passing on secret and sensitive information about Pakistan's missile programme to the Americans.

Asked by DAWN, State Department sources declined to offer any comment, with an official saying he had no knowledge about any arrest.

But other sources said the US Embassy in Pakistan had informed the State Department about the reports.

Diplomatic observers said the US silence on the issue was understandable as the matter appeared to be self-incriminatory and could cause misunderstanding between the top army brass in Pakistan and the US authorities.

Reports here in the diplomatic circles mostly quote the Pakistani Press sources which say that the army officer, probably of the rank of a Major, was quietly put on observation by the army authorities after he was found

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to be living beyond his means, with his family enjoying extended holidays and adopting a visible luxurious life.

He was arrested in Khushab on the charge of passing on highly sensitive information about missile deployment as he was in charge of deployment in highly strategic areas. An intense hunt was said to be on to find any further links.

Khushab was recently in the headlines in the United States when THE WASHINGTON POST broke the story during the visit of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto that Pakistan was building a nuclear reactor capable of producing plutonium. Ms Bhutto confirmed these reports but claimed that it had no capability of producing plutonium to reports in the diplomatic circles, the incident had invoked concern in Pakistan because US intelligence agencies were known to have close links with Israeli secret agency Mossad which in turn shared intelligence information with the Indian agencies. [sentence as published]

There was every possibility that the sensitive information passed on to the Americans by the arrested army officer might land in the hands of Pakistan's enemies.

Observers say after the Chakwal seismic centre controversy, this was the second major disclosure which proved involvement of the Americans in sensitive areas, even covertly.

Pakistan is already under sanctions by the United States for purchasing the M-11 missiles from China.

Observers say the issues raised by the arrest could be taken up by Pakistan army authorities when the Pak-US Consultative Group meets in the coming months but no public protest or a diplomatic show of concern was likely.

Kuwaiti Sought in Alleged Bhutto Murder Plot

BK2904142695 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 29 Apr 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by "special correspondent"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Peshawar—A search has begun for a Kuwaiti national in connection with the alleged plot to assassinate Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The federal government has informed the Northwest Frontier Province [NWFP] Government on an emergency basis that an Arab, said to be from Kuwait and working at a Kuwait-related nongovernmental organization in Peshawar, is one of the major culprits in an assassination plot against Prime Minister Bhutto. Federal agencies as well as the provincial administration have been alerted to arrest him. Informed sources say the federal government suspects this Arab, whose name and other particulars are being kept secret, is hiding either in NWFP or adjoining tribal areas. Sensitive [hassas] agencies have been asked to keep a close watch on people leaving for Afghanistan and to ensure the immediate arrest of this criminal. The sources say the federal government has also established contacts with the Kuwaiti Government to arrest the criminal and expose the elements active behind the scenes.

It is reported that the Kuwaiti was identified following the interrogation of Abdus Shakur, the alleged Pakistani accomplice of Ramzi Yusuf, the pivotal figure in the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York. It may be recalled that the Railway Police arrested Abdus Shakur in possession of bombs aboard the Khyber mail train in Peshawar en route to Karachi. Under interrogation, he disclosed the alleged plot to assassinate Prime Minister Bhutto and acknowledged his links with Ramzi Yusuf and his brother Abdul Munim.

Bhutto Views Actions To Prevent Terrorism

BK2804122795 Islamabad THE NATION in English 28 Apr 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that her government is determined to protect citizens from terrorism and would not allow terrorists to go scot free.

She was speaking at the conference on human rights and tolerance the Asian perspective held under the auspices of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan at a local hotel on Thursday [27 April].

The Prime Minister said the groups, involved in terrorism, must realise that they cannot take law into their own hands and if they do so they would face retaliation from the State. "We will not sit as silent spectators to the crime against humanity," she said.

Benazir said that under the existing law a person, involved in 70 murder cases, can be granted bail by the court of law. Hence, there is need to bring in extraordinary law for extraordinary situation. However, she made it clear that the law would be applied only in troubled area and the hardened criminals would be tried in the Courts for Suppression of Terrorist Activities. The government sent teams to Turkey, Malaysia and other countries to study their laws, she said.

She said democracy is an ideal system as it brings progress and prosperity in countries but today democracy with its openness faces threats from terrorists and has caused fears and terror among people in various countries including the United States. "We have been [as published] terrible acts of terrorism and brutalities in Karachi since 1981 as we had an undemocratic system for some time during the period. Army was also called in Karachi to restore law and order," she observed.

The Premier said that Pakistan was fighting against terrorism and had already signed extradition treaty with Egypt. The government has handed over to the US suspects in the World Trade Centre bombing case.

"We are committed to protect human rights but at the same time we are committed to eradicate crime," she declared.

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The Prime Minister said there were two types of human rights violations—one by State against individual and other by an individual against individual. "In the battle to protect the rights we must turn to the government. We must work together to create awareness about human rights," she added.

She further said that her government was determined to protect the rights of women in the country. "We want women to have economic freedom and justice. Islam also emphasised on rights of men and women both of whom are equal. We have set up women's bank in the country. We have set up women police station to deal with domestic violence. Women have also been inducted in higher judiciary. We will be judged by what we do. We are determined to improve the status of women in Pakistan," she observed.

Benazir said her government has also set up Human Rights Cell to take immediate notice of any violation of human rights. It has also set up a Human Rights Tribunal for the disadvantaged groups which would take suo moto action on human rights violation and crime against women, children and members of minority community.

About Kashmir issue, Premier Benazir said the people of the Occupied Kashmir have been subjected to atrocities and their right of self-determination is being denied to them. They are being crushed by the brute force since Jawahar Lal Nehru's days.

"If in South Africa white minority can give power to blacks majority why not India come to the conclusion that Kashmir is a disputed territory," she asked.

Benazir said Pakistan cannot turn a blind eye to the human rights violations in the Held Kashmir. "We are supporting the people of the Occupied Kashmir at a great cost and we are doing so as it is our moral obligation."

She called upon the world leaders to persuade India to allow the people of Kashmir their right of self-determination according to the UN resolutions.

The Prime Minister said, "in Pakistan we have a democracy on one hand but apartheid on the other. The minority is not allowed to vote in general elections. We would like to have a joint electoral roll but this needed amendment in the Constitution." She said there is need to restore women seats. She invited Leader of the Opposition Nawaz Sharif to join hands with government in this connection.

Earlier, Chairperson of HRCP [Human Rights Commission of Pakistan] Asma Jehangir in her welcome address briefed the Prime Minister about violation of human rights in the country especially about the injustices being done to women.

Attiya Inayatullah, Chairperson of the Executive Board of UNESCO also spoke on the occasion.

Later, the Prime Minister Benazir inaugurated the Mal Kalorchi by-pass on Mouslvi Tameezuddin Khan Road. Addressing on the occasion she said the government was committed to develop the city and provide better facilities to its residents. However, she said the government could do all this alone. She appealed to the people of Karachi to strengthen hands of the government for the purpose.

The Prime Minister also laid foundation stone of the Metropolitan Amusement Park, adjacent to Safari Park on Rashid Minhas Roads. The place where the ceremony took place was decorated with colourful flags and buntings and strict security arrangements were taken on the occasion.

PPI [Pakistan Press International] adds: Prime Minister Benazir invited Leader of Opposition Nawaz Sharif for talks to restore the joint electorate system as well as reserved seats for women in the Parliament.

"I am ready to meet him (Leader of Opposition) at any place and at any time to discuss these two issues. We like to see the system of joint electorate restored but a constitutional amendment was needed for this purpose, she added.

The Prime Minister said it was he desired to create a society of mutual tolerance in the country, the greatest challenge to us is poverty and human development.

She also spoke of the immigration problem being faced by Pakistan and said, "we face tremendous flow of immigrants from Afghanistan India Bangladesh, Burma and some other countries adding to our social problems."

Paper Criticizes Bhutto's Antiterrorism Measures

BK2904122195 Islamabad THE NATION in English 29 Apr 95 p 6

[Editorial: "PM and human rights"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Addressing a conference on human rights and tolerance in Karachi the other day, Prime Minister [PM] Benazir Bhutto touched on the various steps taken by her government to indicate its commitment to human rights. The PM mentioned that her government had set up a Human Rights Cell to monitor and a Human Rights Tribunal empowered to take *suo motu* notice of violations against the rights of minorities, women and other socially disadvantaged groups. On women's rights she referred to women's appointments to the higher judiciary, women's police stations and women's banks as measures to restore the dignity and protect the rights of women and accord them economic freedom and justice. She invited the Leader of the Opposition for talks anywhere, anytime to help bring in the necessary constitutional amendment to restore women's seats in the Assemblies and undo the separate electorates system. One hopes the government will follow up this positive invitation by taking steps to redress some of the Opposition's complaints about government harassment to create the atmosphere for liberating these issues from their imprisonment by political confrontation.

While the goals spelt out by the PM and some of the steps taken by her government to uphold human rights are

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appreciable, a discordant note was struck by her assertive defence of the Presidential ordinance recently promulgated to allow as evidence the confession of an accused before a police officer of the rank of DSP [deputy superintendent of police] or above. No one needs convincing that our police as a hand-maiden of power that be, can be extremely brutal and ruthless. To arm it with such powers as will sanctify its existing recourse to third degree methods is to unleash a Frankenstein's monster. Yet the PM advocated it as a necessary measure for a special situation where democracy and the rights of the victims of terrorism had to be protected through special laws. Her assurance that it will 'only' be applied in troubled areas (no doubt to be determined by the executive itself) provides no guarantee that once on the statute books, its scope of application will not be expanded wherever and whenever the present or future governments find it convenient. Benazir Bhutto in Opposition was a champion of doing away with Special Courts, Laws and all such special dispensations as incompatible with a democratic society. Yet in power she has surrendered to the temptation to use the troubles in areas like Karachi instead of reforming the police and judicial structures which oversee law, order and justice. Democracy can neither be safeguarded nor even consolidated unless the commitment to human rights is translated into allowing due process to even the worst criminal. Democracy cannot defeat terrorism by resort to methods outside the pale of justice. Nor can crime be eradicated at the expense of the human rights of any citizen. Better that hundreds of accused are granted bail by our judicial system than that even one innocent person is sentenced on the basis of a confession which will, almost inevitably, have been obtained by torture. Although the government has slipped in the Ordinance in the NA [National Assembly] tactically at the end of its current session, a healthy precedent has been set by the Speaker allowing debate on it in the next session. Presidential Ordinances *per se* militate against the sovereignty of parliament. One hopes the government will begin to see that this ordinance contradicts its oft-expressed commitment to human rights, as reiterated by the PM in Karachi, and that it will see fit to remove this anomaly by recalling the Ordinance while concentrating on reform of the police and judicial system to catch and put away the terrorists and criminals while safeguarding the rights of the innocent.

Editorial Hails Clinton Efforts To Improve Ties

BK2904105995 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 29 Apr 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Amendment of Pressler law"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] When President Clinton of the United States realized and publicly declared the inequity of his country's act of withholding Pakistan's money and the equipment for which it had been paid, he also pledged to do his best to remedy the situation. He vowed at the conclusion of his talks with Benazir Bhutto at Washington to work with the Congress to show flexibility and remove impediments in bilateral cooperation in economic, strategic, and other fields. In a bid to honour the commitment and struggling to find a way out of the blockade, the Clinton administration is currently engaged in an elaborate exercise to evolve a package to address the problems created by the Pressler Amendment of 1990 in the Pak-US relation. The view is widespread among the US officials that the amendment, which has sought to drive Pakistan into abandoning its nuclear programme through aid-cuts and sanctions, including stoppage of economic assistance and military sales, has proved counter-productive. The change to this effect in the US perception of the discriminatory and coercive Pressler Amendment was also visible when last fall the visiting US secretary of defense, William Perry, described the law as a "blunt instrument".

In the current talks at Washington, involving senior officials of Clinton administration in close consultation with the Senate foreign relations committee and some other senior senators from both the Republican majority and the Democratic party, a set of proposals and procedures are being worked out. Senior Pakistani diplomats are also keeping in touch with the administration and the Congressional leaders. The reappraisal of the law undertaken by the US president following his pledge and the close cooperation between the two sides reflect the promise of development of a maturer relationship between the two countries in the post-cold war era. Benazir Bhutto had pointed to this fact in one of her statements after returning from her visit to the United States. She had also rightly said that a great deal of groundwork still needed to be done and that new areas of cooperation would have to be explored and the impediments that continue to stand in the way of Pak-US relations needed to be removed. She had made these explanations primarily to apprise the nation of the outcome of her visit, but the plea was also to be taken as an oblique rejoinder to those in the country who refused to perceive the situation with a futuristic dimension and who were quick to jump to the conclusion that her visit to the US failed to achieve anything at all as she came back without the F-16 planes or the outright removal of the Pressler Amendment. Even now as talks are going on in Washington to the effect, both the Pakistani and the American officials advise caution and patience. President Clinton had already declined to use his executive power to significantly reduce pressler's impact on Pakistan, and the process of introducing legislative changes in the US congress is time-consuming. Moreover, the facts, that Congress is dominated by the Republicans—meaning limited leverage from Clinton—and that the 1996 re-election battle is at hand presuppose caution on Clinton's part; Pressler law is a legislation that attempts to check nuclear proliferation, an important issue on the US foreign policy and one that enjoys widespread government and public approval. The earnestness shown by the Clinton administration despite everything, however, is indicative of a new and healthy turn in the mutual relationship of the two countries.

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PRC 'Reminder' on Border Issue Discussed

BK2904154195 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 27 Apr 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Pakistan-China Border Issues"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Citing reliable sources, our staff reporter in Islamabad says that following Pakistan's request to the United States to mediate in solving the Kashmir issue between Pakistan and India, the Chinese Government reminded the Pakistani Foreign Ministry that China is also a party to the issue of the northern areas. An agreement concluded between the two countries in 1963 also stipulates that fresh talks will be held with the Chinese Government to redefine the borders after the Kashmir problem between Pakistan and India is resolved. In view of the ongoing flurry of diplomatic activities and the changing situation, China told the Pakistani Foreign Office that it is the Pakistani Government's prerogative to solve the issue however it likes, but in keeping with the 1963 border agreement, it should not harm Chinese interests. This agreement is of considerable significance in the Pakistan-PRC friendship and good neighborliness. Ignoring the resentment of the big powers and Indian opposition, Pakistan has maintained its friendship with China. For its part, China has fulfilled the responsibilities of a friend and, displaying an exceptionally liberal attitude, handed over to Pakistan 750 square miles of territory that was under Chinese control. Overall, Pakistan received 1,350 square miles of territory.

The borders of 3,400 square miles of territory in China's Xinjiang and adjoining Hunza, Gilgit, and Baltistan were defined under that agreement. The preface of the agreement says the agreement was concluded in the spirit of mutual trust and cooperation, sincerity of mind, and rationality. The objective was to maintain peace along the two countries' borders. Pakistan now defends and controls these borders.

Under Article IV of the agreement, the two sides agree that after the resolution of the Kashmir issue between Pakistan and India, the sovereign [khud mukhtar] authority will initiate fresh talks with the PRC Government to define the borders so that appropriate changes can be made in the present demarcation agreement. In the 1963 agreement, under which Pakistan received the 1,350 square miles of territory, China did not say that the territory belonged to Pakistan; it only said the territory is under the control of Pakistan.

What is the real motive behind China's reminder to Pakistan about reviewing the border agreement? The Foreign Office is the one authorized to make clarifications. It seems, however, that in view of Pakistan's appeal to the United States to mediate on Kashmir, China reminded Pakistan to honor the relevant clauses of the agreement as a precaution to safeguard its own interests. China and Pakistan are each other's most reliable friends. They hold identical views on regional and international issues and take care of each other's interests. The 1963 border agreement itself reflects their complete understanding and mutual trust. The two countries concluded the agreement as a show of cordiality between them. The same spirit mentioned in the preface of the agreement still exists today. It can be said irrefutably that the spirit of trust, cooperation, sincerity, and rationality between Pakistan and China exists even today and is intensifying. As in the past, they still believe in the need to maintain peace along the borders and are ready to fulfill their responsibilities in this regard. The Pakistan-PRC border agreement was concluded in a pleasant manner. A border dispute between China and India, on the other hand, resulted in the outbreak of war, the bitterness of which still exists in one form or another. The situation is now changing, though, and a reconciliation between China and India has begun.

Pakistan has made it clear that its biggest dispute with India is over Kashmir, and once this is settled it will not take long to reestablish good-neighborly relations, thereby ensuring peace and security in this region. Viewed from this angle, the Chinese reminder may be called a diplomatic step. No one should have any objection to it. China has always supported Pakistan's stand for a peaceful and just solution to the Kashmir issue. It is hoped that in view of its improved relations with India, China will prove an effective motivating force in securing a solution to the issue, and a solution to the border issues will follow.

Sri Lanka

Reaction to Latest Round of Rebel Attacks

President Chairs Emergency Session

BK3004111495 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga chairs an emergency special session of the Cabinet this afternoon as the government officials and defense experts assess military strategic developments in the wake of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] missile attacks on the SLAF [Sri Lanka Air Force] aircraft.

The government will ensure that the armed forces are fully geared to face any threat posed by the LTTE. A government spokesman said this last evening after officials discussed the response of the military incidents in the North involving the loss of two SLAF aircraft due to LTTE missile strikes.

An SLAF spokesman said last night that the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] had reported that the LTTE had handed over the bodies of 30 dead persons from yesterday's crash site.

A government communique last night called on the general public to keep calm and not to be unduly

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perturbed and misled by misinterpretations. The communique said since 19th April 1995 to date, the LTTE has resorted to violence and unprovoked attacks on the security forces. The government has full confidence in the security forces of our country and will ensure that they are fully geared to face any threat posed by the LTTE, while ensuring maximum possible security and safety to the civilian population of the North and East and all the people of the country.

Security on 'Top Alert' in Capital

BK3004092195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0633 GMT 30 Apr 95

[Report by Anosh Ahamah]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, April 30 (AFP)—Security forces in the Sri Lankan capital were placed on top alert Sunday [30 April] ahead of the May Day holiday amid fears that Tamil rebels may try to carry out attacks here, officials said.

The authorities adopted further security measures including checks on passengers at Colombo's main railway station for Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels who may have infiltrated the capital, officials said.

"We cannot afford to drop our guard. The Tigers have done it in the past and they might do it again," said a military official, referring to the LTTE's previous bombing campaigns in Colombo.

The need for maximum alert by security forces in the capital followed a wave of LTTE attacks in the past 11 days in the northeastern war theatre, leaving 164 security personnel dead, military officials said.

As the fighting escalated in the northeast, the People's Alliance (PA) government on Sunday appealed for calm and urged the public not to be "unduly perturbed and misled by misinterpretations."

The government was confident that security forces "will ensure that they are geared to face any threat posed by the LTTE while ensuring maximum possible security and safety to the civilian population," an official statement said.

The LTTE killing of 13 soldiers from the majority Sinhalese community in the north in 1983 sparked a Sinhalese backlash against minority Tamils living in Colombo, leaving some 400, mostly Tamils, dead.

The ethnic riots led to Tamil rebels intensifying their campaign for a separate state in the northeast for the country's two million Tamils.

Under the tight security measures only one person will be allowed to receive or see off passengers at the main Katunayake airport here, officials said.

In 1986, Tamil guerrillas bombed an aircraft of Sri Lanka's national carrier, AirLanka at the Katunayake Airport, triggering a decline in tourist arrivals to the Indian Ocean island.

Security forces have also set up additional roadblocks and have been checking vehicles entering the capital for possible LTTE car-bombs. Large numbers of civilians have died in rebel bomb attacks here in the past.

The traditional May Day rallies and processions held by several political parties have been major crowd-pullers but police believe that interest for this year's celebrations may dwindle due to fears of LTTE bomb attacks.

Veteran trade unionist and ruling party legislator, Alavi Mowlana said that "as of now" there were no plans to cancel May Day activities but the issue would be discussed at a special cabinet meeting later Sunday.

However police headquarters here assured in a statement that ample security would be provided for all May Day events and appealed to the public to cooperate with security forces in the conduct of security operations.

Following the LTTE's decision on April 19 to renew its separatist campaign, security forces have been holding "quite a few" LTTE suspects after questioning thousands of Tamils in the capital, officials said.

The main opposition United National Party (UNP) has said that it was unable to hold a rally because the government had refused permission for such an event.

Instead, the UNP has said it would hold religious ceremonies islandwide to commemorate the second anniversary of the death of their former leader and President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Premadasa was blown up by a suspected LTTE suicide-bomber as he was leading a UNP May Day rally in the capital.

Government Cancels May Day March

BK3004141195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1351 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, April 30 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's governing People's Alliance [PA] Sunday [30 April] decided to scrap its International Worker's Day demonstrations in view of the deteriorating security situation, official sources here said.

Presideent Chandrika Kumaratunga's PA will not hold its street march on Monday but will stage a public

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meeting to mark May Day, officials said adding that the decision was taken following fears of Tamil rebel attacks.

Police had deployed some 6,000 additional constables here to provide security to a dozen meetings to celebrate May Day which is usually turned into a show of strength by political parties.

Celebrations this year were marred by fears that the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) may carry out bombings in the capital to keep up pressure on security forces battling them in the island's northeast.

Since the LTTE pulled out of a truce with the government 11 days ago, the rebels have killed 164 security personnel in attacks against the army, navy, airforce and the police.

Government Receives Offers of Assistance

BK3004111195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Offers of foreign assistance are being received by the Sri Lankan Government to combat and conquer LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres. Defense sources told LANKAPUVATH that the offers of immediate assistance, including military equipment, had come from her neighbor[s] in South Asia, members of the Nonaligned Movement, and several Western countries. This follows the LTTE's abrogation without notice of the cessation of hostilities agreement and their violent tactics.

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